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Issue No 70

Available from Wednesday,
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ISSN 1753-117-9



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FACEBOOK SHARES DEBATE

A Facebook group set up calling the town's innovative shared space scheme 'an accident waiting to happen' has signed up close to 1,000 members within a month of launching.

The group on the popular social networking site has been set up to oppose the controversial traffic scheme and urges its members to post details of 'near misses' on the stretch of road which sees cars and pedestrians given equal priority.

■ BY ED HILL

ASHFORD Golf Club has confirmed it has held talks about possibly moving to a new home after its picturesque course was included on a list of sites facing potential redevelopment.

The 18-hole parkland course in Sandyhurst Lane is just one of a host of green spaces earmarked for future development as part of the council's development plans.

The Urban Sites and Infrastructure Development Plan outlines areas which could be developed over the coming years as the town looks to accommodate the huge amount of housing government has insisted it build, in addition to further expansion of leisure and commerce facilities.

You can have your say on the remarkable map of the borough during a consultation period which runs for another month.

The list of sites includes areas already earmarked for future development such as the old railway works off Newtown Road. But the council has also named additional sites which could mean many of the town's green spaces could see development.

However, it stresses it is only identifying possible venues for development and not giving the green light yet.

Other sites include the golf club, the cricket and hockey club in Ball Lane and the rugby club off Canterbury Road.

John Gammon from Ashford Golf Club confirmed: "We were in discussion with the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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Printed by Newsfax

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County board give academy plans a boost

■ BY ED HILL

AMBITION plans to create a new academy taking children from their first to last day of schooling have been given a huge boost by receiving a provisional thumbs up.

Much-discussed proposals to merge Christ Church secondary school with Linden Grove Primary School, near Stanhope, have now been given the support of Kent County Council's School Organisation Board.

The backing means the plans now become concrete – and could pave the way to a £30 million investment and an academy which would cater for more than 1,700 of the borough's children and could be open as soon as next year.

Academies were introduced in 2000 and see much of their funding come from outside sponsors and payment. By merging the management of both the primary and secondary aspects of a child's education – there would be one headteacher and one board of governors – it should mean a smooth transition through the various stages.

Crucially, Canterbury Christ Church University will sponsor and support the proposed academy as well as the county council – although it will be funded outside of Local Education Authority control.

At the same meeting, two other academies are also being proposed by merging schools in Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks.

County councillor and member of the board Mark Fittock said: "We welcome these improvements in our schools. This huge investment in rebuilding schools will help boost Kent's economy at a difficult time and improve pupil choice and their long-term prospects."



Picture: ED HILL



MERGER?: Linden Grove Primary School and Christ Church secondary school look to join

Peter Read, from Kent Independent Education Advice, said: "Academies attract a lot of funding and superb resources for children going through.

"Children would still be given an opportunity to take the Kent Test and could go to a grammar school.

"There are already nine academies educating children from three to 19, but they have not been in existence long enough to gauge how the scheme works in practice."

Linden Grove current admits just 60 children a year while Christ Church takes around 240. It is expected the majority of children will still join the academy at the age of 11.

A KCC spokesman said: "The next stage of the process will be a public consultation with parents at the school and from anyone in the local community. We will also soon announce the date of a public meeting that people will be able to attend."

'This is all part of the growth of Ashford'

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
 council and a developer exploring the possibility of the club moving.

"However, it is not currently on the agenda."

The town is a targeted government growth area – and as such has to find sites suitable for 3,500 homes and providing 6,625 jobs in the area.

The council says the list of sites has come from various sources, including previous plans and informal submissions already made to the council. It will alarm many, however, as to just how much green space could be developed.

In particular it could further erode the spaces between the town and its outlying villages – such as that already seen between the town and such areas as Kingsnorth and Kennington.

However, given the current downturn in commercial house building it seems unlikely many of these sites will see development anytime soon.

The consultation document also includes two major urban extensions at Chilmington Green and Cheeseman's Green.

Spokesman for Ashford council, Dean Spurrell, said: "These sites are pieces of land that have been suggested by landowners and developers.

"It may well be that after this consultation none of these areas are developed and new areas of land may be suggested."

Alternative

Alan Paterson from Ashford Hockey Club said: "The ground is now too small for us and we have access problems. Both clubs have outgrown the pavilions, so long term we are looking at finding an alternative."

"This is a long-term vision. This is all part of the growth of greater Ashford. As Ashford grows the providers of sporting facilities will have to grow with it."

"Any organisation that might want to double its members as the town grows will be forced to look for alternative sites."

The consultation period runs until February 13 and can be viewed and commented on at www.ashford.gov.uk/consult.

You can also see the plans at the Civic Centre in Tannery Lane, Charing and Wye libraries and the Tenterden Gateway or call 01233 330 229.

• **What do you think of the proposals? Are you confident or fearful of what the future will hold for the borough? Let us know. Email: yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk. Write: The Editor, Yourashford, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.**

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Making a splash with free swimming plans?

Pilot scheme to test the water

■ BY ED HILL

A FREE swimming scheme is to be trialled at the borough's two major leisure centres.

But it is a far cry from the free swimming for teenagers and OAPs project proposed by the Government and rejected by Ashford council chiefs last year.

Instead it will offer carefully chosen groups the chance for a free dip at the Stour Centre or Tenterden Leisure Centre – among them young homeless people and the unemployed.

Last year, a Government-funded proposal to provide free swimming for the over-60s and under-16s was rejected by the council due to the costs involved.

The initiative was designed to roll out in the years leading up to the 2012 Olympic Games, highlighting the health benefits activities such as swimming can bring.

Now, however, the council has come up with its own, targeted, alternative with £80,000 of funding coming from the NHS Eastern and Coastal Primary Care Trust (PCT) which, if it agrees, would fund it over two years.

In the first year it will apply to older and dis-



MAKING WAVES: The Stour Centre and Tenterden Leisure Centre will be running the new free swimming schemes

abled people referred by social services, children and families registered with a children's centre, vulnerable families and young homeless people.

Even then, in year two, free off-peak swimming may not be available to the over-60s, who will be competing for spaces with unemployed people, looked-after children and junior schools not currently offering swimming.

Rpercussions

The scheme will be run on a voucher system that will link each free swim with the amount of funding available.

Councillors say their scheme will be more beneficial to the targeted groups than the blanket free swimming scheme the Government

had proposed. It has also avoided any financial repercussions of the scheme which at present the PCT has no plans to continue funding after the two years is up.

Clr Gerry Clarkson, portfolio holder for cultural services, said: "We hope the scheme will be successful enough to allow us to look at extending the offer to other groups in the community."

The council will review the success of the pilot scheme, which still has to be fully approved by the Ashford Leisure Trust and the PCT, after three months.

The council says it hopes to start the scheme in February or March.

• Email yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk

Probe after girl attacked and robbed

MYSTERY surrounds an attack which left a teenage girl semi-conscious, sprawled on a path, and robbed of her mobile phone and money.

Now police are looking to piece together the moments leading up to the incident which took place around 10.45pm on January 5 in St Stephen's Walk, Stanhope – details of which were released yesterday.

The 18-year-old woman was found dazed by a passer-by three hours later, near a public phone box, who then summoned an ambulance.

Police believe the woman was followed by two men along Beaver Road towards the Murco Garage and shops. At some point between taking a short cut it is believed the men pounced, knocking her to the ground near St Anne's Park.

DS Bill Thornton said: "This is an unusual incident. I would particularly like to speak to the man who helped the woman and called the ambulance, but left before the ambulance arrived."

"He may have information that will help us piece together what took place. He can call South Kent police, or me personally on 01233 996282."

Council to employ 'design champion' for future buildings

THERE will never be another monstrosity such as Charter House acting as a blot on the landscape – after an initiative to improve the standard of buildings in the borough.

Council chiefs say they will appoint a 'design champion' to promote best practice in development as well as an independent design panel to advise on the quality of design.

The move comes in a bid to see off any criticism over the design and aesthetic appeal of new buildings and communities as part of the town's massive expansion plans.

Areas of the town centre particularly, are due for substantial new building with the development of what is described as a new leisure quarter in the area near the new Elwick Square.

The Thames Gateway, another area of Kent set for major redevelopment, employed well-known fashion designer Wayne Hemingway to help promote the quality of design in its building projects.

Councillor John Kemp, portfolio

holder for planning and development, said: "The continued focus on design quality is essential if we are to see a growing town that creates a legacy of places and communities that people enjoy and are proud of."

On the appointment of a design champion, Oliver Winconeck, chairman of Ashford Visual Artists, said: "The key to the success of this will be finding someone with a good track record. It is good that Ashford may be able to attract someone like this, but people who are successful in this field are not short of work."

Ashford already has a good record when it comes to design and has been awarded Beacon status for promoting sustainable communities.

It has been employing design workshops on sites of varying sizes since 2000. The council also proposes more community and stakeholder design workshops, additional design training for councillors and staff, best practice workshops and visits to see and learn from completed developments.

Outlet celebrates as sales increase

SALES and visitors to the Designer Outlet centre rocketed over Christmas – bucking the nationwide downward trend.

Centre chiefs say sales figures across the 80 stores increased by two per cent compared to the same period last year, while visitor numbers were up by three per cent.

As shoppers looked to nab a bargain, designer brands at the centre saw sales increase by an incredible 47 per cent. Luxury jewellery was also up a healthy six per cent on 2007 figures.

Centre manager David Maddison said: "The economic climate has encouraged people to make their money go a lot further and they know that is going to be easier here where everything is permanently discounted."

Both County Square and Park Mall have reported increased sales and higher footfall figures.

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High Street church is targeted by lead thieves

LEAD thieves have struck at the All Saints Church in Biddenden High Street to extinguish new year good cheer.

At some point between January 2 and 5, five lengths of lead measuring around 6ft, and with an estimated value of around £500, were stolen.

Police would like to speak to anyone who may have seen anything during the time frame of the incident to call them on 01303 289180 or Crimestoppers on 09800 555111.

Pervert exposed himself to young girl in street

A FLASHER who exposed himself to a girl in South Ashford is being hunted by police.

The pervert exposed himself to the 11-year-old as she made her way home from school on January 6 at 4.20pm. She had just left friend at shops in Christchurch Road. The man flashed at the junction with William Road.

He is described as 5ft 6in tall, aged about 30, with a skinny build and had dark blond or light brown hair.

Planners set to decide on care home proposal

PLANS to build a 54-bed care home in High Halden are in doubt if councillors go with the recommendation of the planning officer.

They are due to discuss the proposal – for land behind High Halden House on the A28 – at a planning committee meeting tonight.

Plans for the four-storey building were originally withdrawn by the applicant after concerns about its design. However, despite changes the planning officer says its scale would be out of keeping with the area.

Mobility scooters take up residence in centre

THE new Shopmobility centre has officially opened in County Square – a month after a display of scooters heralded its arrival.

The charity, which was formerly based in a Portacabin in the Vicarage Lane car park, is now on Blue Level 01 of the shopping centre. The charity offers mobility scooters and wheelchairs at reasonable rates, to assist visitors and shoppers in getting around town. Call manager Brian Marsh on 01233 650063 for details or to make a booking.

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Latest bite of uncertainty for post office

■ BY ED HILL

residents for a 'shambolic' service. It then shut for nearly four months, opening again last month.

But just before Christmas mystery surrounded its future again when a 'for sale' sign went up on the building.

Despite many agreeing a dentist would be a useful addition to the area, older residents in particular have been left fuming over the potential loss of a vital service.

A planning application has been submitted to Ashford council to change the building's use from retail to a dental surgery by Sittingbourne-based Chopra & Associates Dental Practice.

When contacted by Yourashford it refused to elaborate on the situation, but hinted it was one of just a number of sites being examined in the town.

The confusion has sparked much debate in the area, however, with opinion split. Pat Boorman is from residents' group the Kennington Forum.

She said: "We do need more dentists, which



UNCERTAINTY: Following a year of twists and turns, Kennington post office is now the subject of a planning application to become a dental surgery

would be good for Kennington but many would be sad to lose the post office counter."

There will also be a likely stampede for the much sought after NHS places at any new surgery. Dentists have progressively turned their back on NHS-funded treatment due to the lack of financial reward they receive.

A Post Office spokesman, however, suggested things were far from certain. They said: "It is business as usual at this branch and there are no current plans to close it."

Council driven to consultation

A MAJOR consultation into problem parking in the borough has been launched by the council.

The two documents focus on the Orbital Park at Sevington and traffic problems around Homewood School at Tenterden.

The Orbital Park has been plagued by parking issues, particularly the problem of foreign lorry drivers parking in the area affecting access to businesses and creating anti-social problems for residents. (See example of the problems on our free, broadband TV site www.yourkenttv.co.uk. Search 'Orbital'.)

A similar process is being carried out in Tenterden and St Michaels to improve road safety

around the town and deal with traffic problems caused at Homewood.

Paul Jackson head of environmental services at Ashford council said: "These proposals aim to address issues of safety and congestion... creating a safer environment for motorists and pedestrians as well as easing issues around parking."

Plans of the affected areas can be seen at www.ashford.gov.uk/parkingconsultation or by visiting the Civic Centre in Ashford. The plans for Tenterden can also be obtained at the Tenterden Gateway centre in Manor Row.

Comments must be received in writing, by post or email, by January 23.

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STAMINA: Runners Alison Draper, Steve Hickman and Nina Davies took part in the Isle of Wight Fell Running Race, one of many events the Ashford & District Road Running Club runs in throughout the year

Sign up for 10k race as club hits 20th birthday

■ BY CHRIS BRITCHER

ORGANISERS of one of the highlights of the town's sporting calendar are hoping for a bumper turnout to help mark its anniversary year.

The Ashford & District Road Running Club holds its annual 10K race on Sunday, February 8 and is hoping to boast a maximum field of 600 runners.

And this year's event will have special significance as it marks the club's 20th birthday.

Previously known as the Techpro 10k, the Ashford & District 10k gets under way at the club's headquarters at the Sandyacres Sports and Social Centre in Sandyhurst Lane.

Ladies captain Alison Draper will be among those lining up to take part and is urging runners across the borough to join in.

She said: "The Ashford & District 10k is a great race, a great day out, and great fun.

"This year will be particularly special because it is our 20th anniversary. It's not too far and the satisfaction at completing it is immense – whether that's at the front or the back of the field."

It was in April 1988 the running club first opened for business – designed to cater for

the needs of adult runners of all abilities who enjoyed road running. Starting with 40 members, it now has a steady 60 members renewing membership each year.

Mrs Draper, from Singleton, added: "Our ability range, for both male and female, goes from beginners, event novices, through to race and age category winners.

"We participate in road races of all distances, from five miles to the marathon.

"We travel to events across most of southern England as well as such events as the Great North Run. Individual members venture further afield and run in other counties whilst a regular visit, by a large group of members, is paid to the Majorca Marathon and half marathon.

"So whatever your ability or age – our oldest member is nearly 80 – people should feel they can come along and enjoy a fun and healthy activity."

Entry for this year's race costs £10 if you are an existing member of a running club – £12 if not. All entries for the February 8 race must be made in advance.

• The closing date for entries is February 4. To enter or find out more see www.ashford-runners.co.uk.

Where would you like to see a film of?

OUR free broadband TV site www.yourkenttv.co.uk is looking for historic sites or stories in and around the borough to focus on for future films.

Fronted by former BBC Radio Kent star Julie Maddocks, the first batch of films from across the county are already proving a big hit.

Recent films include a two-part look at the history of Ashford's cattle market. To view it search 'cattle' at www.yourkenttv.co.uk.

If you have an idea you would like to see featured, email yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk.

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yourashford NEWS IN BRIEF

Jail for ATM ram raiders

FOUR men have been sentenced to a total of 17 years for the theft or attempted theft of 17 cash machines and 10 vehicles across the country, including one in Tenterden.

George Welford, from Hoo in Rochester, was sentenced to five years and banned from driving for the same period at Ipswich Crown Court on Thursday. The 40-year-old construction worker along with Stewart Bentley, Paul Mockford and Martin Goodwin had pleaded guilty to the crimes carried out between May 2007 and July 2008. Among the raids was one in Ashford Road, St Michaels, which saw £18,000 taken and £10,000 of damage caused. It took place on March 21 last year.

Detective Sergeant Rob Haines from Kent Police's serious and organised crime unit, which led the investigation, said: "We have established the full extent of damage, chaos and disregard all four men have had in order to satisfy their own relentless greed."

Outlet music store closes

ZAVVI is to shut its store at the Designer Outlet with the loss of eight jobs.

The store is one of three Kent branches of the stricken music, film and game retailer being closed by administrators.

The company's troubles are a consequence of the end of Woolworths, as its distribution arm supplied much of Zavvi's stock.

Nineteen other stores are being closed around the country while other branches in Kent, including Canterbury and Bluewater, will continue to trade if a buyer can be found. The chain was originally Virgin Megastore.

Hospital gets an upgrade

BENENDEN Hospital is undergoing a £2 million refurbishment programme.

The hospital, run by the Benenden Healthcare Society, treats private and NHS patients. One ward is being converted into 13 large single rooms and work upgrading one of the operating theatres is also under way.

The operating theatre should be completed by the end of February and the single rooms are scheduled to be completed by April.

Jane Abbott, acting hospital director said: "The improvements are a considerable investment and will make patients' stay extremely comfortable."

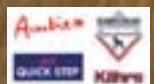
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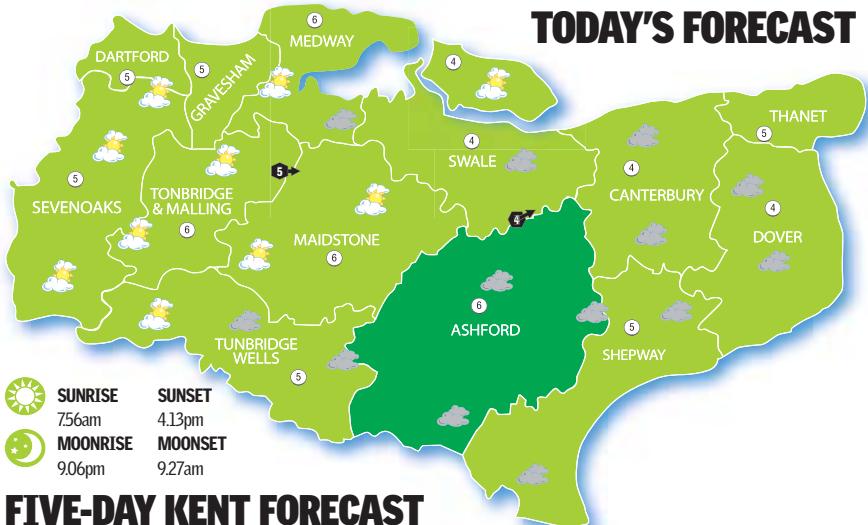
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Ashford	10°C	4°C	4°C	7°C	9°C	Gravesend	10°C	5°C	6°C	8°C	10°C
Canterbury	9°C	3°C	3°C	6°C	7°C	Maidstone	10°C	4°C	5°C	8°C	9°C
Chatham	10°C	5°C	5°C	7°C	9°C	Ramsgate	9°C	3°C	3°C	6°C	7°C
Dartford	10°C	5°C	6°C	8°C	10°C	Rochester	10°C	5°C	5°C	7°C	9°C
Dover	8°C	4°C	3°C	6°C	7°C	Sevenoaks	9°C	3°C	4°C	6°C	8°C
Faversham	10°C	5°C	5°C	7°C	9°C	Sittingbourne	10°C	5°C	5°C	7°C	9°C
Folkestone	8°C	4°C	3°C	6°C	7°C	Tonbridge	10°C	6°C	5°C	7°C	9°C
Gillingham	10°C	5°C	5°C	7°C	9°C	Tun Wells	10°C	6°C	5°C	7°C	9°C

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	Sunday	6:05pm	5.3m
Dover	Saturday	3:28pm	6.0m
	Sunday	4:20pm	5.7m
Dungeness	Saturday	3:28pm	6.8m
	Sunday	4:21pm	6.4m
Ramsgate	Saturday	3:58pm	4.5m
	Sunday	4:50pm	4.3m
Sheerness	Saturday	5:06pm	5.4m
	Sunday	5:54pm	5.1m
Whitstable	Saturday	5:12pm	4.9m
	Sunday	5:55pm	4.7m

AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	5°C	Madrid	2°C
Athens	9°C	New York	-2°C
Barcelona	9°C	Paris	3°C
Beijing	-2°C	Rome	10°C
Bombay	33°C	Sydney	23°C
Cape Town	27°C	Tenerife	18°C
Cardiff	9°C	Tokyo	7°C
Gibraltar	14°C	Vancouver	5°C
Hong Kong	19°C	Warsaw	-1°C
Las Palmas	17°C	Wellington	18°C

Health trust backs scheme to get us walking to fitness

LOOKING to shed those festive pounds? Then a series of Health Walks backed by the NHS could be just the thing you're looking for.

Supported by the Eastern and Coastal NHS Trust, the events are organised for those looking to be more active, cost nothing, and don't need to be booked in advance.

Led by a volunteer, they last between 40-90 minutes and are mostly suitable for all.

For more information on the Health Walks schemes and details of all the walks and where and when they take place, visit www.whi.org.uk/eastkent.

Charity ultimate winner at Eastwell Manor prize draw

A PRIZE draw at Eastwell Manor has managed to raise £4,000 for local charities.

Top prize was a two-day stay at the award winning luxury hotel.

It was won by mother and daughter Joan and Audrey McDonald from Wigmore.

The draw was organised by the Kent Charities Group.

The winners received the prize from Turrlo Parrett, chairman of Eastwell Manor, and Liz Clayton from the deaf support group Hi Kent, one of the charities that will benefit from the money.

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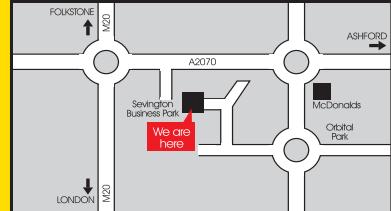
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QUESTION & ANSWER

MALISSA WHITEHOUSE



Q & A

The creative director of the increasingly popular Pop Sessions at studios in Bunting, talks to **Ed Hill** about the project, her career, and the talent they are helping to develop in the music industry

Q How did you get your first break in music?

A I began singing and acting from the age of ten. I first performed at the Bob Hope Theatre, London. After six years of studying drama with an emphasis on music I decided to write my own material and fronted a teen indie group which led to key tours and gigs around the UK. Wider recognition came when I went solo and my song 'Summertime' made it to the finals for song of the year in a competition supported by the Evening Standard, Coca-Cola and Capital Radio.

This gave me a platform to perform at Party in the Park and launch a singing career. Over time this led to a development deal with Peer Publishing working with top line songwriters to develop as an artist and songwriter.

Q What has been your luckiest break?

A I've worked at a variety of media companies such as MTV and Capital Radio. This led to a job working with the influential music executive Richard Park, a priceless opportunity as it allowed me to work on projects for key artists and taught me the skills needed to launch my production company.

Q Can you tell us about how Pop Sessions began and what it hopes to achieve?

A I always dreamed of setting up my own production company. Pop Sessions was launched

over five years ago when my business partner/producer Tony Matthew and I discovered there was a big gap in the business to offer up-and-coming artists a chance to record in a state-of-the-art studio with named producers. This was only possible for artists with a record deal but now anyone who dreams of being an artist can have the chance. The demand has been high and we have put some great new artists on the road to launching music careers.

Q Why did you decide to locate to Ashford?

A We already have London studios and knew Kent had some great bands and artists. As Ashford was a new growth area we thought it would be a perfect location.

Q Does the industry have a clear career path, or in the days of YouTube has it become a case that anyone can do it?

A The record industry is evolving all the time and with different trends in music technology everyone can have their five minutes of fame recording a bedroom smash hit.

However, the industry is fierce so you have to know your market and win your audience. With YouTube and MySpace you now have the power to reach your audience at a click of a button.

Q What sort of areas are open to people who want to get into music?

A Pop Sessions has been set up for that very reason; to give people a taster of the business

with the various sessions we run at our studio. Our team are on hand to give advice and direction on all areas of music from becoming a musician, producer or writer. We also offer instrument tuition as well as songwriting lessons.

Q Do you think Ashford has a good music scene?

A Absolutely! There are some great acts just launching. Make sure you keep your eyes peeled for Danny Taylor and Chantelle Curling.

Q If you were not involved in music what other path might you have chosen?

A If I wasn't involved in music I would still need to be in a creative job. I spent some time working with OK! magazine when I was younger and journalism was a favourite.

Q How can you help an aspiring new band or artist?

A We have just launched Diverse Music, offering management and support for new artists. This has given us the opportunity to bring two of our studios to Kent. Studio One is a writing suite for solo artists and Studio Two caters for live bands, and there is something for every budget. So if you want to book a session to do some covers or are looking to record your first album we can help.

• For more information call the team on 01233 811811 or email info@popsessions.co.uk

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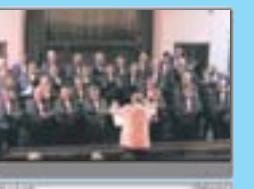
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Dog behaviourist Pippa Ducat on puppy training. Search 'puppy'



Take a step back in time at the Walpole Bay Hotel, Margate. Search 'Walpole'



Kent Police Male Voice Choir's fun version of an old song. Search 'choir'



A replica of the ship Discovery commemorates Kent's links with Virginia. Search 'Discovery'



Surviving the crunch: January sales at a Maidstone furniture retailer. Search 'Clarke's'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at...

yourkenttv.co.uk

Our Morris dancers: are they on their last legs?

■ BY CHRIS MURPHY

THE distinctly British custom of Morris dancing will die out within two decades because no one is taking it up any more, its modern-day custodians are warning.

Youngsters say it is simply too embarrassing to be seen Morris dancing, a style of folk dance that dates back centuries.

The exact origins are clouded in mystery, but the clattering together of tiny sticks by men bouncing back and forth to odd music has delighted people across the country and baffled tourists in equal amounts.

The Morris Ring, an association for the bell-clad men, says fewer are taking it up and the average age of those taking part continues to rise, which means that in 20 years it will have died out completely from the current estimate of 14,000 dancers nationally.

Charlie Corcoran, the Ring's bagman, said: "It worries me a great deal. Young people are just too embarrassed to take part."

"This is a serious situation. Once we have



TRADITION: Are youth of today too hip for Morris dancing?

lost this part of our culture, it will be almost impossible to revive it."

But however odd and comical it looks, those who do Morris dancing also raise plenty of cash for charity. Some £600 was raised for the Demelza House children's hospice before Christmas, following several displays around east Kent by the Woodchurch Morris Men.

And one man in the county is determined to keep the hanky-waving habit alive.

Malcolm Triggs, 50, said of the idea that Morris dancing was on its last legs: "That is actually nonsense. We have plenty of youngsters doing the dancing and playing."

His own three sons, Jack, 16, Harry, 11, and Will, nine, are all members of Whitstable's Dead Horse Morris.

Mr Triggs, who runs a public relations company in Ashford, said: "At Dead Horse we have five or six children dancing with us."

Mr Triggs, who is also the Squire of East Kent Morris Men, said: "Clearly, young children who then become teenagers don't want to dance in their local shopping centres because they might be seen by their mates.

"But they tend to come back in later years when they are not as bothered about what people think about them."

"I think the whole Morris dancing world is alive and well and will keep going forever. More sides [groups] are springing up all the time."

"I believe it is all perfectly healthy and won't be dying out any time soon."

• For more information on dancing with either side, phone Mr Triggs on 07970 968314.

New chief aiming to guide estate agents through hard times

HOUSING expert Peter Rodd is the man who will help estate agents through the next couple of tough years.

He has told how he plans to put 30 years of knowledge to good use by fighting in the corner of property solicitors throughout the country.

He is partner and head of conveyancing at Thanet firm Boys & Maughan and also a member of the Law Society's property section, and was this week named its new chairman.

In his new role, Mr Rodd, 55, will head a team providing advice to other solicitors on property issues such as the slump in the housing market, Home Information Packs and money-laundering.

He said: "I've been a member of the committee for a few years and was deputy chairman before this, but it's certainly a challenging time to step up because the housing market is going through some tough times at the moment."

Mr Rodd joined Boys & Maughan – which has offices in Margate, Birchington, Ramsgate and Broadstairs – in 1976.

He was admitted as a solicitor in 1978 and became a partner of the firm in 1981.



EXPERIENCED:
Peter Rodd

Health trust chiefs taken to task over cost of agency staff

HOSPITAL bosses have tried to explain payments of up to £110 an HOUR for stand-in staff.

This week it was claimed that the NHS was wasting vast amounts of money paying soaring hourly rates to agency staff.

The Conservative Party has revealed that the NHS spent almost £800 million on agency workers in 2006-07.

At least three Kent trusts were revealed as paying at least £100 an hour for stand-in staff –

equivalent to an annual salary of more than £200,000.

But the cash does not all go to the worker – agencies skim up to 43 per cent of the payments.

The NHS West Kent Trust's new chairman, Anthony Jones, said: "We would like to reduce our reliance on agencies and we are trying very hard to recruit more permanent staff."

According to Department of Health figures, a consultant earns between £61,000 and

£174,000 a year, while a salaried GP makes between £52,000 and £79,000.

Medway NHS Foundation Trust had paid £98 an hour to a consultant.

A spokeswoman said: "Patient care is our top priority and we would be failing in our duty under these circumstances if we did not use agency staff."

Margaret Daly, NHS West Kent's director of human resources, said staff turnover was low but added: "We are constantly competing

against London wage... sometimes we have to turn to agencies to fill vacancies on a short-term basis."

Andrew Lansley, the shadow health secretary, said: "It's incredible that agency staff can be paid such high hourly rates when jobs are being cut at the same time."

The Department of Health argued it had reduced the amount spent on agency staff from 5.5 per cent of its pay budget in 2004 to 3.2 per cent last year.



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Brace yourselves for the county's next Big Day Out

■ BY NICK AMES

LAST year it proved one of the most popular ticket giveaways the county had ever seen... and now it is to take place again.

The Kent Big Day 2009 will be staged on Saturday, March 28, and see thousands of free tickets to the county's top tourist attractions handed out free to the county's residents.

Now in its third year, organisers Visit Kent, at Kent County Council, last year worked with 130 of the county's many attractions – including castles, historic houses and gardens, steam trains and sports centres to hand out more than 16,000 Big Day Out free tickets to people living in Kent and Medway.

And this year the celebration of the county's tourism and hospitality sector, and the contribution it makes to the local economy, will be even bigger. More cultural and sporting venues will join the ranks of destinations opening their doors to Kent Big Day Out ticket-holders.

Details of exactly where you can go for free have yet to be unveiled, but the free tickets will be available from the Visit Kent website, at www.visitkent.co.uk, and through the county's visitor information centres from March 3.

Last year the Visit Kent website had 16,483 hits on the tickets' launch day – a record number for one day.

Fran Warrington, head of Visit Kent, said: "The feedback we had from attractions and visitors for our 2008 Kent Big Day Out event was excellent. Ninety-three per cent of visitors said they would recommend the attraction they had explored."

"More than 30 per cent of visitors to Kent stay with friends and relatives and rely on their hosts for recommendations of what to do



LET'S EXPLORE: Dover Castle is just one of the attractions to which you could have got free tickets last year

while in the county. So this is encouraging."

KCC cabinet member Kevin Lynes, who has special responsibility for tourism and regeneration, said: "The Kent Big Day Out goes from strength to strength. This event highlights that on our doorstep we have amazing destinations, beautiful gardens and countryside, as well as activity-based attractions for those who like their days out with added adrenaline."

"Kent Big Day Out is good for the local economy, which relies so much on tourism, and it's good for local pride. Last year 98 per cent of Kent Big Day Out visitors said it made them proud to live in our county."

Visit Kent research shows that Kent attracts 45 million visitors every year, producing an economic impact of £2.5 billion and supporting more than 50,000 jobs across the county.

Volunteers who rose to challenge

ST JOHN AMBULANCE volunteers from across the county have been praised after a hectic month that almost overwhelmed the vital support service.

St John Ambulance Kent chiefs praised "dedicated and hard-working volunteers for their professionalism" for efforts in December.

They faced the double whammy of plunging temperatures and a spate of flu cases, adding strain to regular medical teams and increasing the demand for their help.

December saw its various divisions cover 90 shifts, clocking up a staggering 900 hours of volunteering.

This is in marked contrast to the 2007 figures for December, when 600 hours were completed.

New Year's Eve saw seven ambulances deployed across the county and more than 80 hours were logged throughout the course of the evening, with 54 calls attended.

More than 9,860 miles were travelled by ambulances and volunteers, with 1,139 of those miles driven on New Year's Eve alone.

Steve Walker, operations manager for St John Ambulance Kent, said: "This year has got off to a very busy start for all our members.

"Throughout December the team worked without question and dedicated large amounts of time to supporting the local ambulance service."

Birds feel the freeze

FOR the first time in more than a decade, wildlife groups last week called on countryside users to minimise disturbance to birds during the harsh weather.

The prolonged freezing conditions meant that many birds would have struggled to survive – and some of those that did could still be in a weakened state.

Dr Mark Avery, the RSPB's conservation director, said: "During freezing conditions, disturbance forces the birds to squander their precious energy reserves by taking flight when they need to spend as much time as possible feeding."

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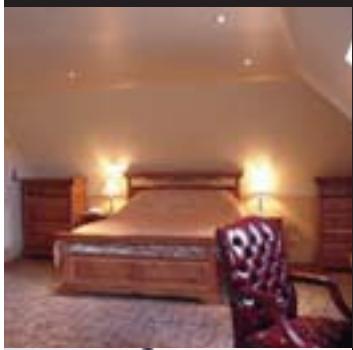
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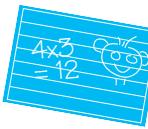
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yourashfordschools



HANDS UP: Application forms for entry this September into primary school must be submitted by Friday's deadline

Have a hand in deciding where your child goes

TIME is running out for parents of children taking crucial steps in their early education.

Application forms for entry this September into primary school – or for transfer to junior school – have to be submitted by this Friday, January 16.

Failure to do so will mean you potentially lose the choice of school your child will attend.

Applications for admission to primary schools and reception classes apply to children born between September 1, 2004 and August 31, 2005.

Applications for children currently in Year 2 – born between September 1, 2001 and August 31, 2002 – will also need to be submitted for entry into junior school.

Parents have had since November 17 to make their decision as to where they would like their child to attend and can do so in one of two ways.

Either they can complete the forms available from all local primary schools and junior schools and submit them to any of those schools or go online and complete the form there. Details of the web address is below.

All parents have to fill out the Reception Common Application Form (RCAF) for infant schools and a Junior Common Application Form (JCAF) for junior schools. They are asked to choose three schools in order of preference.

■ BY ED HILL

Entries received after the 11.59pm deadline on the night of January 16 will be marked late by the Local Education Authority and not given the same priority as those received on time.

Kent County Council, which is responsible for school admissions, advises parents to get hold of the Admissions to Primary School Booklet for their area so they can express a choice. If they don't, the child will only be offered a space at the school closest to the parents' home address.

Schools have been on a charm offensive since November in a bid to secure pupils – while parents have been sifting through prospectuses, attending open evenings and checking the latest Ofsted reports, again all available to view online, to help their decision making process.

Last year more than 96 per cent of children were placed in the state schools chosen by their parents.

Offers of a place will be sent to parents on March 31. Parents and carers then have until April 24 to accept the offer, be placed on a waiting list or appeal against the decision.

For more information go to www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-learning.

To make an application online go to www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-sixth-form/school-admissions/e-admissions.htm.



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BREAK TIME

Primary rises to Ofsted challenge

STAFF and governors at Charing Church of England Primary School recently held a development day to discuss its future.

The meeting was part of an ongoing process to improve the school following a damaging Ofsted report last term.

The school received an overall inadequate rating by the government's team of inspectors and was given a notice to improve.

A key area raised in the inspector's report that needed improvement, was matching pupils' learning with their ability. School staff were criticised for not stretching children enough when it came to learning and said there was too much repetition in lessons.

It now has an advisory headteacher,

Lynn Lawrence, who will be at the school until a new permanent head is appointed.

In a newsletter to parents Mrs Lawrence said: "I am pleased with the enormous progress that has been made against the three key areas for development identified by Ofsted in September."

Kitchen staff cook up five star rating

KITCHEN staff at Aldington Primary School have been awarded a five star rating by Ashford council's environmental health officers.

Headteacher at the school Sandra MacCourt said: "I am very pleased we were rated with the highest mark possible. Our thanks and congratulations go to Mandy Fletcher and Amy Godden, our kitchen team."

SEND your schools news and pictures to yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk

yourashfordblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in the district of Ashford...



Whatever happened to a little positive thinking in our town?

IT has often been said Ashford is the regional capital of apathy. And, in truth, those who say such things, may have a point.

I use as a fine example, the quote provided in your newspaper last week by Ashford council on the subject of a pantomime being staged in a big top. Now, and you'll have to forgive me for suggesting this, but it appeared the story was based more on an idea from the newspaper, rather than any call from 'people on the street'.

Yet it was a nice idea and one worth discussing. After all, if there is one thing Ashford has developed a reputation for, it is as something of a cultural desert.

But I digress. For those who missed the story, it was basically suggesting Ashford could do a lot worse than consider following Canterbury's lead and host a pantomime in a 'circus-style' big top.

The story suggested it would attract shoppers and provide a theatre space – albeit tem-

porarily – in a town bereft of such a thing. So what did our council have to say on the matter? What words of encouragement and good cheer did they think to add?

Surely, you would think, they would make the sort of noises which would endear them to the public. The chances of it happening are a long shot so anything they said would hardly come back to hang them. They'd say something like "what a great idea. If a company came to us with a proposal we'd love to hear it". They could even add, for safety's sake, "we couldn't afford to spend taxpayers' money on it, but if a private company wanted to have a go, we'd be happy to assist". Makes sense, I'm sure you'd agree?

But, oh no. The quote our cheerful 'spokesperson' came up with was this miserable gem "As we do not have a theatre at present we are not obligated to continue to run productions in the same way as the Marlowe. If a professional company was keen to do a production we would have to negotiate whether that would be possible". Rubbish.

Aside from specialising in the bleedin' obvious – we know we don't have a theatre – the quote suggests even someone willing to make all the effort would face a rough ride, like it might be a bit too much work for those in the Civic Centre being paid with our money.

And this is from our council. The people who are supposed to sing the praises of our town. To make everyone in the borough feel pleased to live here; enjoy living here.

Yet, for a council which has specialised in the past on selling the borough on what tomorrow might bring, it fails miserably to inject that future with life and fun... just houses, houses, houses and the occasional shop. Well, Ashford council, that is not enough.

Little wonder there is such apathy in this town – when our own council are so gloomy. If it wasn't now a little out of season, 'bah humbug!' would suit their attitude perfectly.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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Chris Britcher, on 01303 817171 or email him

on the details above. If you want to be the next Ashford blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourashford.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, YourAshford, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

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WIN Girlie fun with Bride Wars

TO celebrate the release of Bride Wars on January 9, we're offering five readers the chance to win a Bride Wars Goodie Pack.

Liv (Kate Hudson) and Emma (Anne Hathaway) are best friends who since childhood have planned every detail of their respective weddings.

At the top of their bridal "must have" list: a ceremony at New York's ultimate bridal destination, the Plaza Hotel.

Now, at age 26, they're both about to get married; they're about to realise their dreams; and they're about to live happily ever after. Or maybe not...

When a clerical error causes a clash in dates – they're now to be married on the same day – Liv, Emma and their lifelong friendship are put to the ultimate test. Liv, a success-

ful lawyer who is used to getting what she wants, including the perfect job and the perfect man, won't settle for anything less than the perfect wedding she has dreamed of for years.

Emma, a schoolteacher who has always been good at taking care of others, but not so much in looking after herself, discovers her inner Bridezilla and comes out swinging when her own dream wedding is imperiled.

Now, the two best friends who'd do anything for each other, find themselves in a no-holds-barred, take-no-prisoners struggle that threatens to erupt into all-out war.

We have teamed up with 20th Century Fox Films Co. Ltd to offer five lucky readers the chance to win the goodie pack which includes a set of Boxing Gloves, a mini mani/pedi set, a notebook and also a quizbook to test your friends.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your e-mail address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Bride Wars Comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR. The closing date is January 30, 2009.

Question: When did Bride Wars hit the cinema screens?

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If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.



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yourletters

TALK TIME

VAIDAS CESNA

Owner of the Eastern European Food Shop in Norwood Gardens discusses the difficulties traders currently face.



How long has the shop been open?

About six months. I opened the shop because there are a lot of people from Eastern European countries such as Poland, Romania and Lithuania who are living in the area. Many of the foods from back in those countries cannot be found at the normal supermarkets.

How is the business doing at the moment?

Times are difficult. Prices for food in Eastern Europe have really gone up in recent times; more than over here, and by the time you add the transport costs this can make it much more expensive than when we first started. We have also had to deal with the work happening on the ring road, which has affected business, but now that is over we hope things will improve.

What are specialities do you sell?

We sell all sorts of different foods. We also have fresh produce such as special smoked meats, pastries and pies. We also sell dried fish such as dried salmon. We also sell newspapers and magazines from Eastern Europe. I hope to be able to sell drink such as vodka soon as well.

Do you have many English customers?

Yes, the meat and fish has proved very popular with our English customers. They like to come into the shop and try all the new things in the store.

What do you think of Ashford?

I lived in London for ten years before I moved here. I like Ashford very much as a town. It is a quiet place and the countryside around here is very nice.

YOUR LETTERS

Tent is a big top-ic for theatre lovers

Support grows for a temporary panto venue



Set the stage for a permanent theatre

A temporary theatre in Ashford would be wonderful, but we also feel the town needs a permanent one.

Ashford is a big town and is still growing and theatre would bring the community together.

It seems we are not thinking about the benefits of having a theatre. We are currently, and have been, taking our money out of Ashford to be able to go and see a show and the pantomimes.

Some people cannot afford the travelling on top of the tickets for the show, so some families cannot benefit from this wonderful experience.

In this day and age everyone is trying to encourage families to do things together and this would be an ideal situation to do this.

So not only would we benefit by bringing money and people into Ashford – the families in Ashford would also greatly benefit.

This could also have a positive affect on other businesses in Ashford such as restaurants, shops etc.

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believe it could really put Ashford on the map.

Nora Godden
Willesborough

Panto a way out of Marlowe's shadow

I do not believe I would be the only one who would love to see Ashford develop a reputation for a pantomime.

We are always living under Canterbury's shadow, and it would be a brilliant idea if we could rival them for once with a festive production of our own.

Bring on the big top, I say.

Michelle Garton
Kennington



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On www.yourashford.co.uk you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly-acclaimed e-editions.



Nuts and Bolts worthy of praise

Nice to see your paper highlighting the success of our town's football team so prominently.

The recent run of form has been extremely satisfying – and proves the club is capable of putting the town on the map.

Just such a shame the match at Whitstable was called off recently. I must admit when I



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turned up to watch the match it was mild and dry...so a little surprised the game was cancelled so early.

Would have been the perfect start to the New Year to have ousted the Oystermen!

**C Smith
Challock**

Shopping for answers

If some shops are outselling branches in Bluewater, as the woman from County Square claims, how come Ashford isn't thriving more?

Seems to me everyone is so keen to talk trade up positively, we seem to move from optimism to remarkable tales of success without a pause for breath or a reality check.

County Square is very nice now, but I fear it could fall victim to its own hype.

**H Underwood
By email**

On the path to safer roads

Ashford is steadily becoming more 'people-friendly'. And the good news has come from the interim director of Kent Highways, who says the pedestrian crossing from Little Burton Farm Lane across the Canterbury Road in Kennington, has been agreed.

Also, one in Bybrook Road, Towers School (work on the design is already in progress), plus five others in the Ashford district.

I was advised of this by KCC councillor, Liz Tweed.

We have been campaigning for years for more consideration to be given to the most vulnerable in our society, such as pedestrians and cyclists, in residential and rural communities. Perhaps we are seeing a change of attitude at last.

**Ted Prangnell
Kennington**

Adult learners inspiring

The deadline to nominate people for Adult Learners' Week Awards is approaching. These awards are a great way to celebrate the outstanding and inspirational achievements of adult learners.

You can nominate individuals, groups, families and projects who deserve recognition and inspire others to take up learning.

To apply, visit www.alw.org.uk/nominate to apply, email alw@niace.org.uk or phone 0116 204 4200. Nominations close 5pm, January 21.

The awards are the highlight of Adult Learners' Week, co-ordinated by NIACE (National Institute of Adult Continuing Education) which is the UK's largest and longest running festival of learning (May 9-15, 2009).

**Emma Cliffe
Assistant campaigns co-ordinator, NIACE**

Rail against ticket hikes

Commuters face above inflation increases in rail fares this year.

Government policy is pushing rail fares up whilst the cost of running cars goes down. Government air pollution policy is so bad the European Environment Commissioner is taking the UK Government to the European Court of Justice to make it comply with European air pollution legislation.

As a railway season ticket holder, I am appalled by the recent above-inflation increases in rail fares. These will contribute to traffic congestion and noise and air pollution on our roads in Kent.

Government policy is failing to support the railways. The cost of rail fares rose 17 per cent above the rate of inflation 1997-2007.

However, motoring costs declined by eight

per cent in real terms 1997-2007. Now petrol prices have dropped, motoring costs will drop even further.

Since the Government has ignored agreed European air pollution legislation, between 12,000 and 24,000 people die of air pollution in the UK each year.

This has prompted the EU Environment Commissioner, Stavros Dimas, to take the

UK to the European Court of Justice.

The Government must cut its subsidy to private car use of about £13-14 billion a year and transfer these resources to the railways to keep fares down and add to new investment.

The Government should also cut its subsidy to civil aviation which is at least £9 billion a year to boost investment in

railways. Kent's rail lines should all be electrified; the Medway Valley line and the Marshlink line (Ashford-Rye) need improving; some closed lines and stations should be reopened, eg the Western and Eastern Docks stations in Dover; the Whitstable to Folkestone line.

**Dr Hazel Dawe
Kent Green Party**



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THE ODD BUNCH: The Circus of Horrors, an outrageous travelling freak show, was originally set up as a 'rock'n'roll alternative circus'

Freak out

The outrageous Circus of Horrors is coming to town

THE CIRCUS OF HORRORS: APOCALYPSE IN THE ASYLUM

Thursday, January 22
Orchard Theatre, Dartford



RUNNING away with the circus will seem less appealing once you have witnessed the Apocalypse In The Asylum.

The latest production from outrageous travelling freak show The Circus of Horrors features pickled zombies, chainsaw-wielding vampires and plenty of hilarious horror.

It is certainly not for the faint-hearted as the show is a real shock to the senses with its assault of rock, mayhem and gory humour.

Apocalypse In The Asylum is described as "a show for weirdos, Goths, freaks and open-minded people who know how to have a good time, know how to laugh but, most importantly, know how to scream!" and is not recommended for those of a nervous disposition.

Audiences with strong stomachs have been enjoying the grotesque antics of The Circus of Horrors since the mid-90s as its blend of humour and horror drags the circus genre, kicking and screaming, into the 21st century.



Despite this modern approach, the show is set in Paris at the end of the 19th century.

With its stage full of burlesque dancers, incredible gymnasts and breathtaking acts, The Circus of Horrors has to be seen to be believed.

The show's beginnings stem from a chance encounter at a funeral in 1994, when the show's 'un-dead ringmaster' Dr Haze met famous circus man Gerry Cottle.

Haze had been born into a circus family and loved performing, but he also discovered a passion for music

and had written his first songs by the age of 16.

At 20 he left the circus to pursue a music career, joining a band called Flash Harry, which then changed its name a number of times over the years. The band moved from its base in Wales to London, performing regularly at The Embassy and supporting artists such as Depeche Mode.

Haze started using illusions, vampire girls and fire-eaters during the gigs, but this was not enough to quench his thirst for a big theatrical project. With his extensive experience, Haze felt sure Cottle was the man to help him realise his dream – to produce a "rock'n'roll alternative circus" that Haze could take to audiences around the country.

The Circus of Horrors premiered at the Glastonbury Festival in 1995 and was an immediate hit. By the end of that year, Haze was receiving offers to take the show abroad and the circus's early tours included trips to Germany and South America.

In London, it played at Camden's Roundhouse for 19 weeks, the longest a circus had stayed in one venue in the capital for more than 100 years. Since then, there has been no stopping this bizarre celebration of the weird and the wonderful.

The show, which is rated PG, starts at 7.45pm. Tickets are priced from £17 to £26 plus booking fee. Call the box office on 01322 220000, or book online at www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.

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THE BITTERSWEETS

Monday, January 19
Zebra Bar, Maidstone



TWO duos bring music from very different parts of America to a Maidstone audience next week.

The Bittersweets, based in Nashville, live up to their name with their captivating sound that blends hope and poignancy. Fusing sunshine and melancholy with evocative lyrics, wonderful melodies and alluring vocals, the duo capture life's ups and downs in their honest songs.

Chris Meyers and Hannah Prater both play guitar and sing, while Meyers also plays keyboards. Their skill at exploring both the highs and lows of life is evident in their 2006 full-length debut The Life You Always Wanted, their recent live set Long Way From Home and new album Goodnight, San Francisco.



Starting out as 'singing puppeteers' during their childhood, twin sisters Sarah and Claire Bowman are now popular performers on the New York City music scene.

As kids they recorded their first album on a tape

recorder. Now both sisters are recognised musicians and vocalists, putting their almost telepathic musical bond to good use.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £12 in advance or £14 on the door. To book call 01622 744481.



THE STARS FROM THE COMMITMENTS

Saturday, January 31
Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone



EXPERIENCE the best of Irish soul with barnstorming band The Stars From The Commitments.

Featuring Dublin's finest mix of gritty soul and irresistible charm, the band is still selling out venues and travelling the world. They have played in Jerusalem on

the same bill as chart-topping US band the Black Eyed Peas and even performed for President George W Bush at the White House.

The line-up includes two original cast members from Alan Parker's 1991 hit film The Commitments, adapted from Roddy Doyle's novel about unemployed Dubliners who form a soul band. Kenneth McCluskey played Derek 'The Meatman' Scully and Dick Massey appeared as Billy 'The Animal' Mooney in the BAFTA-win-

ning movie, which made the fictional band a household name and introduced many people to rhythm and blues.

Stars From The Commitments was formed shortly after the film's release and has delighted audiences with its sizzling show, featuring favourite tracks such as Mustang Sally, Try A Little Tenderness and In the Midnight Hour.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £18/£16. To book call 0870 4000 890 or visit www.leascliffhall.co.uk.

AN EVENING WITH WILLARD WHITE

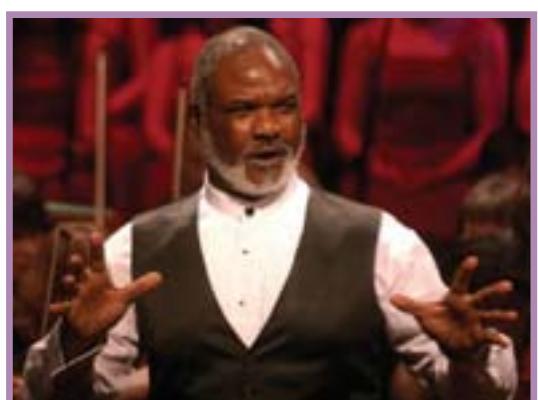
Wednesday, January 21
Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury



THE songs of Paul Robeson will be performed by the mesmerising Sir Willard White next week.

As well as delving into Robeson's repertoire, he will also be exploring the life of the man who was a major figure in the fight for equality. Robeson raised awareness of human rights in the mid 20th century and his moving story is still relevant to today's world.

Born in Princeton, New Jersey, Robeson was the son of a former slave. He studied law and was also a gifted singer, actor and athlete. He went on to find fame as an actor, as well as being a civil rights activist.



Sir Willard will be accompanied by a group of outstanding musicians, led by Neal Thornton and including Guy Barker on trumpet.

They will be joined by the Pavão String Quartet as they play tailor-made arrangements of some of

Robeson's more popular songs.

The performance starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £24.50/£22.50.

To book call the box office on 01227 787787 or visit the website at www.marlowe-theatre.com.

ASHFORD LEISURE

Find your Equilibrium with rocking live music

ROCK covers band Equilibrium will be playing at a pub in Ashford this week.

The five-piece formed in 2005 with the intention of playing great music all over Kent.

Read their set list and hear some tracks at www.equilibrium-theband.com.

Catch them at the George Hotel in the High Street on Friday. For more details about the venue call 01233 625512.

Band are offering you a Fusion of great tunes

FOR an evening of soft and classic rock played live, go along to the next gig by Kent band Fusion.

The four-piece, female-fronted band caters for all tastes and puts its own mark on great songs. Hear demos and find out more at <http://fusion-band.co.uk>.

Fusion will be at the Hooden on the Hill in Silverhill Road, Willesborough, on Friday. Call the pub on 01233 662226.

Star performance is a range of classic hits

FROM the Beatles to the Rolling Stones, Blackstar covers some of the greatest music artists ever.

As well as classic favourites, the pub and party band also plays hits by contemporary acts. More information is at www.freewebs.com/blackstarnews.

See them at the Flying Horse Inn in Boughton Corner, Boughton Aluph, at 9pm on Saturday, call 01233 620914.

Take up a new hobby and help a charity too

ANYONE looking for a new hobby should throw themselves out of a plane.

The stunt will be in the name of charity, as Breakthrough Breast Cancer is offering people the chance to raise money by taking part in a sponsored parachute jump when you raise £395. Participants who raise £550 or more will receive a holiday voucher. See www.breakthrough.org.uk/skydive or call 0207 0252426.

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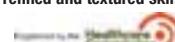


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ASHFORD SHOPPING

Support local traders to boost our economy

MAKE sure you support local traders during 2009 – and with so many special offers available at the moment, you're likely to be spoilt for choice.

Ashford and Tenterden – and all the surrounding villages – boast a host of independent shops in addition to the big name chain outlets to create something of a shoppers' paradise.

And remember, by shopping and buying locally, you help keep our local economy alive during these difficult times.

Trio open up a corner of socialising heaven

WINE bar and restaurant @Utopia has reopened at the weekend.

The venue at 39-41 Bank Street held a special event to mark its re-launch on Thursday. Invited guests enjoyed food, drink and live music.

Doors were then thrown open to all on Saturday as the chef started cooking up a treat. Steve Biggs, the original chef and director of the venue, now runs the site alongside James Halligan and Matthew Ball.

Flower club squares up for new public display

SHOPPERS popping into County Square later this month will be able to enjoy some floral delights while they snap up their bargains.

Ashford Flower Club will be presenting their floral displays at the popular, extended, shopping centre during the week of January 26.

The club is part of the National Association of Flower Arrangers, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this month.

Savings will help you compute the new year

NEEDING a bit a computer power to get your new year off to a flying start? Then why not check out the PC World sale?

The firm has slashed prices on laptops, office equipment, video games and accessories as part of its January stock clearance.

Laptops can now be snapped up for £250, top-selling video games are 40 per cent off, and you can even buy some software packages for less than 50p.

Offers are at www.pcworld.co.uk.

Paint by numbers for stunning film star eyes

FOR sultry film star eyes, check out the latest collection of eye shadows from L'Oréal Paris.

The cosmetics company has launched three ColorAppeal Trio Pro Star Secrets Crystals, each one named after a famous beauty.

The numbered shadows are applied in three stages to achieve the perfect look. Priced at £6.99, the products are available from Boots, Superdrug and major supermarkets.

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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

- RELOCATION, RELOCATION**
Channel 4, 8pm, Tuesday
- CELEBRITY BIG BROTHER**
Channel 4, 9pm, week nights

THERE'S something addictive about horrible people looking at nice houses.

As property prices tumble in light of the credit crunch it seems odd this genre of programming still booms.

It is rarely the houses are the stars of these shows, though – it's those searching for their dream homes.

With shows such as Relocation, Relocation – the spin-off of Location, Location, Location – it is the relationship of the couples that intrigues far more than the bricks and mortar.

More often than not it serves a reason for a maniacal woman to boss around the hen-pecked man in her life – a great showcase for remaining single if ever there were one.

I'd kill to be a fly on the wall when the cameras stop rolling as at some point the pair must surely realise that, for 250K, they perhaps won't be picking up the modern equivalent of Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater.

But it is not just the strained house-hunters' relationships that crackle in the glow of the limelight.

The back-and-forth between hosts Kirsty Allsopp and Phil Spencer nips along nicely, leading some to believe they are in fact an item.

As a point of clarification, they're not, but if someone could bottle the sexual tension between this pair then they could well solve the energy crisis.

After Relocation, Relocation has ended and Boredom Boredom has set in, Big Brother is back, in super-duper celebrity form... again.

Despite the controversy which saw it shelved last year, CBB is still hanging in there, racking up the ratings other shows would kill for.



LITTLE GEM: Verne Troyer looks a good bet to win the latest Celebrity Big Brother series

It looks like it's going to take a miracle to stop the diminutive Austin Powers Mini-Me, Verne Troyer, from cosying up to the winner's publicity, such is the level of competition he's facing.

A member of a boy-band who were never that big the first time around, a faded rapper and Ulrika Jonsson, now more famous for copping off with Sven Goran Eriksson than, er, reading the weather.

Even among those people who care about Big Brother, the buzz has long since vanished, and fingers crossed, Channel 4 will drop the reality show standard-bearer after the end of the next series proper, which will start in earnest this summer.

We can only hope.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

A FITNESS regimen comes to a satisfying conclusion. You could finally reach your desired weight or gotten your cholesterol under control. Give yourself a reward. Of course, you can't afford to slack off now. You need to keep working to maintain these results.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

YOU may feel a little sensitive about your educational background. While it's true some of your rivals have better schooling, they lack your common sense approach. Keep this in mind the next time you have to promote your agenda. A respected teacher could offer their support.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753

LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

YOU'RE finally moving past a difficult period of seclusion when you learned a lot about your strengths and weaknesses. Use this knowledge to overcome a destructive habit. Gaining this new level of control will put you in line for a very lucrative job.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

AN academic degree, publishing contract, or legal decision could be awarded to you. You've worked long and hard to get to this point. Revising some domestic arrangements will improve family relationships. Allocate jobs according to people's ability.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

AN artistic project comes to fruition, and you could be happier with the results. A respected expert could single you out for favourable attention. Take their words to heart, as they are utterly sincere. Pay no attention to self doubt that comes bubbling to the surface.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763

GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

PAYMENT for a job done some weeks ago could finally reach you. Resist the temptation to spend it all in one shopping spree. By putting a portion toward a home purchase you'll get good value for your labour. Revisiting beliefs you held as a youngster could be illuminating.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

A GROUP project finally comes to a close. Fortunately, your stellar efforts will be singled out for favourable attention. Don't be surprised if you're offered a plum position as a result of this job. Fortunately, you have plenty of experience in this realm.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

AT long last, you're able to move past intense public scrutiny. Take this opportunity to pursue stalled plans concerning your career. This is a rare opportunity to leave an unhealthy situation behind, for once and for all. Don't listen to people who issue all sorts of dire warnings.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

WORRYING about the future is a waste of time. You've got to put your best foot forward and go back to work. Fortunately, there is plenty to be done. By submerging yourself at work, your fears will abate. Seize the reins of leadership with regard to a career opportunity.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752

CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

THE results of a self-improvement programme are evident to everyone. Go ahead and treat yourself to a flattering outfit or makeover. It may be necessary to revise a retirement or college fund. Taking a more aggressive approach will help you keep pace with inflation.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755

LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

SUBMITTING your creative efforts for review will pay off. Yes, some of your work may not be understood, but the majority of your efforts will be lauded. Let this inspire you to return to a favourite hobby from childhood. A respected family member has valuable advice.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

A CLOSE relationship gives you the strength you need to venture into the unknown. Lean on a romantic partner or close colleague if your courage starts to flag. They'll give you all the encouragement you need to go back to school, fight a legal dispute, or publish a book.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

Calls cost 75p per minute. Service provided by g8wave London N7

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(Calls cost £1/min; contact your service provider for details)

**REPLY to an ad, call:
0905 211 0651**

(Calls cost £1.20/min; contact your service provider for details)

REPLY by Text

You can choose to text the member's 6-digit box number followed by a space, then your message (max of 160 characters) and send to **82250** e.g. 654321 Hi my name is... Standard network rates apply to send messages. Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message.

**BROWSE and listen line:
0906 753 3093**

(Calls cost 75p/min; contact your service provider for details)

**HELP required with service?
0871 220 9205**

Live assistance, 2pm-5.30pm. Mon to Fri | Email: lpouse@gwave.co.uk

(Calls cost 10p/min; contact your service provider for details)



WOMEN seeking men

YOUNG BUT NOT FOOLISH
Happy-go-lucky 19yr old blonde, blue eyes, slim, loves meeting new people, WLTM a down-to-earth male for friendship to start but hopefully something more. Box 445285 **1**

LOVELY SUSIE

Sensitive, shy and caring lady, 20, loves life and sunsets, beaches, country walks, romantic meals, cinema, WLTM handsome gent to find love with. Box 446323

SINGLE DAD WANTED

Single mum, 23, nice and curvy, 5ft6, blonde, blue eyes, likes shopping, cinema and animals, WLTM an honest and trustworthy male, 28-38. Box 446099 **1**

SOCCER FAN SEEKS SOULMATE

Fun to be with blonde female, 25, 5ft2, loves football(!), going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man to be my soulmate. Box 446494 **1**

CHATHAM UP!

Pretty black female, 32, tall, loves watching football, shopping, travel, seeking tall, white, loving male, 34-42, for a LTR. Chatham. Box 437778 **1**

FUN-LOVING FEMALE

Attractive, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, witty, intelligent, professional, attractive guy for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734 **1**

CANTERBURY TALE

Single mum of 2, 32, WLTM someone kind, caring and considerate, for nights in/out and cinema. Ryan from Whistable, please call again, leave contact details! Box 406670 **1**

SOULD GOOD?

I'm 35, kind, caring, N/S, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447595 **1**

CLOSE ENCOUNTER

Loving, caring, tactile female, 36, 5'8", blonde hair, blue eyes, n/s, GSOSH, likes cinema, bowling, country pubs, nights in/out, seeks male for friendship and LTR. Box 827619 **1**

FRIENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE

Social, genuine, honest, single mum, 36, 5ft2. I've got hazel eyes and dark hair, enjoy the cinema, meals out. WLTM sincere, attractive, genuine male. Box 446480 **1**

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Good looking woman, 37, 5ft2, brown hair/eyes, 2 kids. Looking for new friends, and hopefully someone special. Box 446039 **1**

BLONDE AMBITION

Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 38, 5'6", likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614 **1**

ANIMAL LOVER?

Nurse, 37yrs, 2 kids, 5ft8, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes the gym, cooking, swimming, salsa dancing, looking for kind, caring, loyal male Box 431567 **1**

HAPPINESS, THE GREATEST GIFT...

Shy female, 40, 5ft9, blue eyes, short blonde hair, medium build, loves going out, wine and dining, holidays; seeking like-wise gentleman to be happy with. Box 446763 **1**

NOTIES

Lonely, bored, professional Tunbridge Wells Asian lady, 40, WLTM slim, single, solvent, professional white male 40-50 for company, fun love and laughter. Box 443573 **1**

TOO MUCH TO ASK?

Genuine female, 41, 5'3", brunette, brown eyes, medium build, enjoys meals out, music etc seeks male, 38-42, for romance. Box 155275 **1**

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Hello, I'm Nikki, 41yr young, 5ft1, enjoys dining out, cinema and dancing, seeking a male for friendship, possibly romance and fun times. Box 444796 **1**

THE HOME LIFE

Happy, caring female, honest, tactile and honest. I'm black African, 41, 5ft2, medium build, and would like LTR with the right person. Box 446024 **1**

YOU'LL SMILE IF YOU DIAL

Blonde 40yr old female, enjoys beaches, pubs, clubs, with a like-minded, caring male to share fun times with. Box 435102 **1**

PASSION FOR YOU

Medium build woman, 41, 5ft2, kind, caring, loving and tactile, GSOSH, looking to meet a nice man for a LTR. Box 446989 **1**

TRY ME

Ashford based woman looking for an honest, friendly, caring, and loving man. I have 2 kids, and enjoy the usual things in life. Box 446985 **1**

SEIZE THE DAY

Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 **1**

MEND A BROKEN HEART

Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopefully happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053 **1**

DON'T PASS ME BY

Cute, single mum of 4, 38yrs old, Kent based, into most things, looking for friendship or possibly romance. Box 897983 **1**

FROM ME TO YOU

Tall leggy blonde, 38, recently bereaved, enjoys meals out or nights in, dry white wine, a good movie & drinks, seeking a male for companionship. Box 887404 **1**

NO TIMEWASTERS!

Easygoing female, 32, enjoys shopping, football, eating out, cosy night in, WLTM loving, caring male 35-47 for long term loving relationship. Box 444214 **1**

HORSES FOR COURSES...

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384014 **1**

REPLY

Tall, attractive, good hearted African female, 28yr old, enjoys films, good food and cuddles, wifm a white male for friendship and romance. Box 441654 **1**

REPLY

Smartly dressed male, 37, self-employed, seeks female, with good personality, for fun and relationship. Box 181734 **1**

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PROPERTY NEWS

HIPs get set to expand with more safety data

CONTROVERSIAL Home Information Packs are to face further changes this year as the Government increases the information which needs to be provided.

A new property information questionnaire will be included with flood risk information, gas and electricity safety, service charges, structural damage and parking arrangements.

From April 6, HIPs must also be provided on the first day of marketing a home – and not after 28 days, as current regulations stand.

The Government claims the changes will place no further burden on estate agents and the packs have not caused a slowdown in the housing market.

New green belt worries in push for development

A ROW has erupted over plans for a dramatic shake-up of the Government's rural planning policy.

Reports suggest that villages across England will come under threat as policy is changed to allow the Government to deliver on its pledge to build 3 million homes by 2020.

And the crunch issue will be giving landowners and farmers incentives to sell land for development – fuelling fears that the erosion of greenbelt land will no longer be seen as an important issue.

Housing Secretary Margaret Beckett is tipped to announce the reforms later this month, but they have already been criticised by countryside protection groups.

Don't be so quick to repossess, urges boffin

HOLDING back repossession is critical for the health of the UK property market, according to a leading expert in the field.

Speaking at the launch of the UK Housing Review 2008/09, Steve Wilcox from the University of York explained that mortgage rescue plans from the Government were important but holding back repossession was needed.

"Forbearance is far more critical than mortgage rescue," Professor Wilcox said.

"If there is a flood of repossession, this will depress the property market further and put off recovery even longer."



SHORTLISTED: Marriott, based in Ashford, has had its spirits raised by gaining recognition as the only local agent to be listed for a prestigious market award

Boost in difficult times for nominated agency

AN independent Ashford estate agent has shown it can stay up with the big boys in the industry after being short-listed for a major award.

Marriott was the only Ashford agent on the list at the 2008 Estate Agency of the Year Awards held at the QEII Conference Centre in London.

The category for Best Small Agency in the South East is one of the most fiercely contested. Despite missing out on the award, the company said this achievement had served to increase its pride and raise spirits even higher ready to take on this year's challenging marketplace.

The area covered extends as far west as Buckinghamshire, excluding London, as far north as Cambridgeshire, and down to the south coast.

■ BY CHRIS MURPHY

Sales director Julie-Anne Marriott said: "The panel of judges recognised customer service levels from voluntary testimonials and the results of the independent OEA survey, which is the Ombudsman for Estate Agents."

She said the firm consistently achieves over 90 per cent of all agreed sales leading to successful completions, against a local average of around 50 per cent.

She said: "With the current economic conditions it is absolutely vital to choose an estate agent wisely. All too often vendors will be seduced by an inflated valuation or the lowest fee – the two least important factors in selecting the right agent."

The most important factor when selling or letting your most valuable asset should be selecting the agent who will always act in your best interest."

She said agents do not control market conditions, and points out it is buyers who currently dictate market prices.

Miss Marriott said: "However, a good agent will give sound practical advice of the current market. This advice should be backed up with documented evidence of comparable 'sold/for sale/to let' prices."

"When arriving at a marketing price it is advisable to take an average of three independent valuations."

"If a property is offered to the market incorrectly priced, the likelihood of securing a buyer is extremely slim. By accepting incorrect advice the vendor is unlikely to sell. Therefore instructing the cheapest agent can undoubtedly be costly."

She said much better advice would be to choose a recommended agent: "Many of the world's property experts advocate this and it works. Why? Because it's true."

JULIE MADDOCKS IS GETTING TO GRIPS WITH THE BOOM AREA OF KINGS HILL IN WEST MALLING @ propertyforkent.co.uk

MANN

Countrywide

Ashford Office
Tel: 01233 639934
45/47 High Street,
Ashford, Kent TN24 8TF

Willesborough Office
Tel: 01233 635737
119 Church Road, Willesborough,
Ashford, Kent TN24 0JQ



Willesborough £550,000

Seventeen bedrooms, cellar & store room, three receptions, utility room, chain free.

CALL OUR WILLESBOROUGH OFFICE 01233 635737



Willesborough £335,000

Four bedroom detached house, double garage, two reception rooms, utility room

CALL OUR WILLESBOROUGH OFFICE 01233 635737



Willesborough £225,000

Four bedroom detached executive home, double garage, conservatory and garden.

CALL OUR WILLESBOROUGH OFFICE 01233 635737



Willesborough £220,000

Three bedroom detached chalet bungalow, utility room, garage to rear, study.

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Ashford £217,000

Three bedroom detached house, close to town centre, double glazing, garage.

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Ashford £189,995

Three bedroom detached house. No chain. Ample parking. Cul-de-sac location.

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Ashford OIEO £185,000

Three bedroom terrace house. Cellar room. Off road parking. Town centre location.

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Willesborough £175,000

Three bedroom link detached house, conservatory, cloakroom, no chain.

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Willesborough £175,000

Three bedroom detached house in South Willesborough location with garage.

CALL OUR WILLESBOROUGH OFFICE 01233 635737



Washford Farm £175,000

Three bedroom detached house. No chain. Lovely condition. Cul-de-sac location.

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Willesborough £174,995

Three bedroom semi detached house, two reception rooms, cloakroom/utility room.

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Kingsnorth OIEO £160,000

Three bedroom end of terrace. ORP. Two garages. Countryside views.

CALL OUR ASHFORD OFFICE 01233 639934



Lydd OIEO £154,000

Three bedroom extended semi detached house. Two reception rooms. Rear garden.

CALL OUR ASHFORD OFFICE 01233 639934



Willesborough £150,000

Three bedroom end of terrace townhouse, cloakroom, garage, no chain.

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Willesborough OIEO £140,000

Three bedroom terrace house, lounge/diner, gas fire central heating, double glazing.

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Newtown £138,500

Three bedroom terrace cottage. Parking. Well presented. Great first time buy.

CALL OUR ASHFORD OFFICE 01233 639934



Willesborough £130,000

Three bedroom semi detached house. Victorian features. Two w.c.s, garden.

CALL OUR WILLESBOROUGH OFFICE 01233 635737



South Ashford £117,500

One bedroom semi detached house. Conservatory. Double glazed.

CALL OUR ASHFORD OFFICE 01233 639934



Ashford £114,995

Three bedroom terrace. Original fireplaces. No chain. 100ft + Rear Garden.

CALL OUR ASHFORD OFFICE 01233 639934



Ashford £114,995

Three bedroom of end of terrace. GFC. Utility Room. Garage & Parking.

CALL OUR ASHFORD OFFICE 01233 639934



Willesborough £112,500

Two bedroom ground floor flat. Allocated parking. Popular location.

CALL OUR WILLESBOROUGH OFFICE 01233 635737



Singleton Hill £105,000

Two bedroom top floor flat. Modern development. En-suite. Superb condition.

CALL OUR ASHFORD OFFICE 01233 639934



Kennington £90,000

Two bedroom 1st floor apartment. Garage en-bloc. Well presented.

CALL OUR ASHFORD OFFICE 01233 639934



Woodchurch OIEO £68,000

Two bedroom detached park home. Garage & parking. Woodland garden. No chain.

CALL OUR ASHFORD OFFICE 01233 639934



Ashford £61,950

Based on minimum figure for shared Equity scheme. Parking and en-suite.

CALL OUR ASHFORD OFFICE 01233 639934



Moving you since 1910 – our roots in Kent, our branches Countrywide



SOUTH ASHFORD £92,950
Two bedroom first floor maisonette. Lounge/dining room, bathroom, separate WC, own front and back door, front and rear gardens, double glazing. No chain.



STANHOPE £110,000
Three bedroom end of terrace house. Kitchen/diner, lounge, ground floor cloakroom, family bathroom, garage.



STANHOPE OIEO £120,000
Four bedroom end of terrace house. Lounge, kitchen/diner, ground floor cloakroom, family bathroom. No onward chain.



KINGSNORTH £129,950
Two bedroom mid terrace house. Entrance hall, modern kitchen, lounge/diner, kitchen and modern white bathroom. Allocated parking for two cars and enclosed rear garden.



HIGHFIELD £129,950
Two bedroom end of terrace house. Off road parking, lounge, kitchen and garden. No onward chain.



SOUTH ASHFORD £130,000
Two bedroom terrace house. Two reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, upstairs bathroom and rear garden measuring 60ft. Near to International station.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



SOUTH ASHFORD OIEO £140,000
Three bedroom end of terrace. Two reception rooms, kitchen, cloakroom, bathroom, off road parking and 22ft garage.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



SINGLETON FARM £145,000
Three bedroom semi detached house. Two reception rooms, bathroom, kitchen/breakfast room, garage & driveway. Planning permission for two storey extension.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



GODINTON PARK £149,950
Three bedroom terrace house. Lounge/diner, kitchen, family bathroom, rear garden, front garden in excess of 40ft. No Chain.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



WILLESBOROUGH £149,950
"NO CHAIN" Three bedroom period end of terrace property with loft room. Lounge/diner, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, and 150' rear garden.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



WYE £179,950
Two bedroom semi detached house in village location with no onward chain. Entrance hall, two reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, family bathroom. Garden measuring 50ft.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



SINGLETON £184,995
Vacant possession. Three/four bedroom detached house. Ground floor WC, two reception rooms, kitchen and family bathroom. Block paved driveway and garage.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



WILLESBOROUGH £225,000
Four bedroom executive detached house, ground floor cloakroom, modern fitted kitchen, utility room, 2 receptions, conservatory, bathroom and a 70ft not overlooked rear landscaped garden.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



TOWN CENTRE £245,000
Five bedroom terrace house with basement room. Two reception rooms, master with en suite. Near to town centre and station. Rear garden and allocated parking.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



KENNINGTON £249,950
Four bedroom detached house. Ground floor cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen/diner, en suite shower room and family bathroom. Garage and driveway parking.

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TENTERDEN £249,950
Three bedroom detached house in village location. GF cloakroom, two reception rooms, kitchen, utility, en suite shower room & bathroom. Integral garage & driveway for 4/5 cars.

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KINGSNORTH OIEO £250,000
Four bedroom detached period house in rural location. Two reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, ground floor shower room, first floor bathroom. Double garage and driveway.

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PARK FARM OIEO £265,000
Four bedroom detached house set on a substantial plot. Three reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, two en suites and family bathroom. Double integral garage, driveway.

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BOUGHTON ALUPH £278,500
No Chain. Detached three bedroom house. Lounge, dining room, sun lounge, kitchen/breakfast room, utility area, ground floor cloakroom, family bathroom. Views of village green.

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KENNINGTON £295,000
Four bedroom detached house. Two reception rooms, downstairs cloakroom, kitchen/diner, en suite shower room and family bathroom. Garage with driveway parking.

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WYE £335,000
Two bedroom detached bungalow in enviable position near to village centre. 130' x 50' rear garden, lounge, kitchen, cloakroom & family bathroom. Period outbuilding in garden. Garage & driveway.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



KENNINGTON £400,000
Four bedroom detached split-level bungalow. Ball Lane area. Two receptions, kitchen, bathroom and en suite. Garage and driveway parking for several vehicles.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



WOODCHURCH OIEO £400,000
Four bedroom executive detached with entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, en suite to master and family bathroom. Double detached garage, gas central heating and double glazing.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



ASHFORD £425,000
Five bedroom Victorian semi detached house. Two receptions rooms, modern fitted kitchen & bathroom, utility. Off road parking to rear for 2/3 vehicles.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



PLUCKLEY £525,000
Plot of approx 6_ acres. Entrance hall, lounge, dining room, three bedrooms with one en suite, family bathroom & modern fitted kitchen. Planning permission for a double extension.

Ashford Office 01233 624561

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**HAMSTREET £170,000**

A five bedroom semi detached property, village location, conservatory, utility room, lounge diner, family bathroom, off road parking, garage, no chain.

**BETHERDEN £129,995**

A three bedroom semi detached property, village location, good size rear garden, driveway parking, no chain.

**FAIRVIEW DRIVE £174,999**

A 4/5 bed town house, WC, kitchen/diner, family bathroom, separate shower room, en-suite shower room to master bedroom.

**CHARTFIELDS £179,950**

A three bedroom detached property, ground floor WC, dining room, en-suite shower room, UPVC double glazing, UPVC soffits and fascia, NHBC, garage, no chain.

**ASHFORD £235,000**

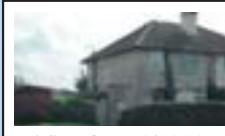
A unique four bedroom detached property, situated in a non-estate location, en-suite shower room, utility room, 26' sitting room, double glazing, NHBC remaining.

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A three bedroom end terrace property, double glazing, gas radiator heating, kitchen diner, separate lounge.

**ASHFORD £139,995**

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Countrywide

PARK FARM**£144,995**

Two bedroom terrace house. Cul de sac location. Kitchen, lounge/diner and family bathroom. Allocated parking.

SELLINGE**£199,000**

4 bedroom semi detached house. DS cloakroom, lounge/diner, conservatory, kitchen, bathroom and en suite shower room. Off road parking.

CHARTFIELDS**£249,950**

4 bedroom detached house. 2 reception rooms, downstairs cloakroom, kitchen, en suite shower room and family bathroom. Integral garage, driveway.

CHALLOCK**£500,000**

5 bedroom detached bungalow with 2 receptions, utility, bathroom and shower room. Equestrian facilities incl. stable block, floodlit manege.

CHARING**£124,950**

No onward chain. 3 bedroom semi detached house in village location. Lounge, kitchen/diner, family bathroom, large garden, workshop with power.

WILLESBOROUGH**OIEO £150,000**

3 bedroom semi detached house. Entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen and conservatory. First floor there are 3 bedrooms.

CHARTFIELDS**OIEO £285,000**

5 bedroom detached home. Entrance hall, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, ground floor cloakroom, family bathroom. Garage and 45ft rear garden.

SINGLETON**OIEO £230,000**

4 bedroom detached house. Downstairs WC, 2 reception rooms, conservatory, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, en suite to master.

WILLESBOROUGH LEES**OIEO £275,000**

5 bedroom detached house. 3 reception rooms, kitchen, 2 en suites, family room, detached garage, garage, driveway parking.

KENNINGTON**£279,950**

4 bedroom detached house. 3 reception rooms, ground floor cloakroom, utility room, two en suites, double garage.



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CREDIT CRUNCH LEADS YOUR MOVE LETTING AGENTS TO BE FIRST TO OFFER INSURANCE POLICY DIRECT TO TENANTS

In response to consumer concerns about the credit crunch, and the increasing number of people who are choosing to rent property rather than buy, Your Move, which has an office in Ashford, has announced that it is to be the first UK letting agent to specifically offer tenants an insurance policy which protects them against the financial impact of losing their job through redundancy, sickness or accident.

Your Move, one of the UK's leading letting agents, believes that many would-be buyers are now turning to the rental market because they are finding it harder to get a mortgage. This, according to their data, has seen a 65% rise in demand for rented accommodation between August 2007 and August 2008 alone. And, it's because of this that they now have a policy available with tenants in mind appreciating the fact that, although they aren't homeowners, they could still face significant financial hardship, should they lose their job.

Steve Cannon of Your Move Lettings in Ashford commented:

"It's quite common for homeowners to take out insurance policies that protect their mortgage payments, for example, should they suddenly become ill, have an accident or lose their job but it's something many tenants simply don't think about because they don't have a mortgage. Worryingly, however, if they did lose their job they would still be expected to pay their rent and landlords would be within their rights to eventually evict them if they didn't. Yet we're not sure that tenants have thought about this."

"As a result we're actively promoting an Accident, Sickness and Unemployment Policy to tenants – we're the first letting agent to do it but feel, with the increasing number of people choosing to rent rather than buy, that it's our responsibility to do so."

"It's important for me to know that, not only is my investment protected, but also that my tenants are suitable"

Protected income.
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"Tenants can receive, for example, an income of £600 a month for one year by paying a premium of just £22 a month – that's less than £6 a week. And, of course, they can choose the amount of benefit and the length or time they receive it for – so it could be even cheaper."

"And, that's not all, we have also arranged for the cover to include a helpline where a tenant, or any member of the family that lives with them, can gain advise and guidance about finding another job if they have been made unemployed. The advice includes, for example, how to fill in application forms or how to create a CV. We can even offer advice on interview techniques. Basically we don't just want to provide an income, we want to offer support as well."

If you'd like to find out more about ASU Cover from Your Move or to gain a free, no obligation quote, simply contact Joanne Lee-Wharton on 01233 645588.

Residential Sales & Lettings



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4 Double Beds + Dble Gge.
3 Recs. South-Facing Gdn.
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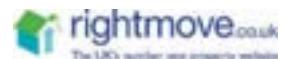
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**3 BEDROOMS,
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MOTORS NEWS



Peugeot mega sale at Robins & Day dealers

BRITAIN'S biggest Peugeot dealer group, Robins & Day, is staging a huge New Year sale of delivery mileage '58 plate cars.

Amongst deals at Kent sites – Canterbury, Maidstone and Rochester – is the limited edition Peugeot Monaco 207 (from £8,995 and pictured) exclusive to Robins & Day. The three/five-door Monaco comes with stitched leather seats, air con and remote control CD player and discounts of more than £2,000.

There are other deals on many models, with savings of up to £6,412.



Fiesta sparks a strong 2008 finish for Ford

STRONG consumer demand for Ford's renewed product line-up has further boosted the UK number one brand's market share.

The company finished 2008 strongly with 16.7 per cent of the December market – up from December 2007's 15.8 per cent – with the new generation Ford Fiesta ousting the bigger Ford Focus as Britain's favourite car.

But the Focus retained its crown as UK's best-seller for a 10th successive year while Ford also grew its market share marginally by 15.1 per cent against 2007.



Seat 'Revolution' now spreading to finance

SEAT has followed up on its Revolution discounts campaign by offering credit crunch busting finance deals and Personal Contract Purchase (PCP) plans for cash-strapped motorists.

These include zero per cent HP deals on specific three and five-door Ibiza superminis (pictured) as well as certain used cars at dealerships.

The deals follow offers that deliver higher spec packages and savings of up to £5,110 against rivals and discounts of up to £2,000 off Seat's own list prices.



ONE TOUGH CUSTOMER: The second generation Terios continues where the old car left off, with a hardy and rugged character that belies its modest cost and a high driving position

Rugged Terios offers cheap 4x4 for users in 'real world'

ROAD TEST DAIHATSU TERIOS

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

would deliver better economy and the low down lugging power that rougher conditions require, plus a cheaper road tax bill than the £170/year for the cheapest Terios model.

However, even in petrol form, this second generation Terios continues where the old car left off, with a hardy and rugged character that belies its modest cost, high driving position, a turning circle able to shame a supermini and a body still shorter than a VW Golf.

But where the old car was absurdly crude on-road, the new Terios is far more refined.

In many ways it has become the car the original RAV4 was before Toyota boosted its money-spinning compact SUV (sports utility vehicle) upmarket, except that it has retained off-roading ability in preference to the deft handling of the RAV.

Fixtures and fittings for the Terios are also much improved, with a well-arranged dashboard and standard kit including air con, reverse parking sensors, electric mirrors, electric windows front and rear and remote central locking.

For those who really do need a proper 4x4 on the cheap, the Terios looks like it has slugged its way to the top of the hill.



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407 1.6 HDi 110 SE 4dr**

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**Our Price
£7890**

**Save up to
£9660
against new price**



Here is a selection of some of the fantastic deals available in our Genuine Sale!
HURRY WHILE STOCKS LAST!

Mazdas

	OUR PRICE	WAS NEW	YOU SAVE
08 Reg Mazda2 1.3 TS 5dr	£7,790	£8,763	£973
08 Reg Mazda3 1.4 S 5dr	£7,390	£11,568	£4,178
08 Reg Mazda3 2.0d Sport 5dr	£12,990	£16,624	£3,634
58 Reg Mazda5 2.0d Sport 5dr	£14,290	£16,624	£2,334
07 Reg Mazda6 2.0 TS2 [147] 5dr	£8,590	£17,930	£9,340
57 Reg Mazda CX-7 2.3T 5dr	£15,190	£24,448	£9,258
08 Reg Mazda MX-5 1.8i [Option Pack]	£11,849	£16,203	£4,354
08 Reg Mazda MX-5 2.0i [Option Pack]	£12,499	£17,181	£4,682



58 Reg Mazda

Mazda2 1.4D TS2 3dr

New Price £11213

AutoPlanet Price

£9190

Saving against new £2023



08 Reg Mazda

Mazda3 2.0 Sport 4dr

New Price £16624

AutoPlanet Price

£11990

Saving against new £4634

Peugeots

	OUR PRICE	WAS NEW	YOU SAVE
08 Reg Peugeot 207 1.4 VTi S [95] 5dr	£7,790	£12,013	£4,223
07 Reg Peugeot 207 1.6 VTi SE [120] 5dr	£8,490	£12,622	£4,132
08 Reg Peugeot 207 1.6 HDi 90 S 5dr	£9,990	£13,039	£3,049
08 Reg Peugeot 308 1.6 VTi Sport 5dr	£10,490	£15,390	£4,900
57 Reg Peugeot 308 1.6 HDi 110 Sport	£10,990	£17,445	£6,455
08 Reg Peugeot 308 1.6 HDI 110 SE 5dr	£12,490	£18,423	£5,933
08 Reg Peugeot 308 2.0 HDi GT 5dr	£13,590	£20,186	£6,596
57 Reg Peugeot 407 2.0 HDi 136 SE 5dr	£10,190	£18,455	£8,265



08 Reg Mazda

MX-5 2.0i Sport 2dr

New Price £18650

AutoPlanet Price

£12999

Saving against new £5651



08 Reg Peugeot

207 1.4 16v Sport 3dr

New Price £12160

AutoPlanet Price

£7790

Saving against new £4370

Renaults

	OUR PRICE	WAS NEW	YOU SAVE
58 Reg Renault Twingo 1.2 TCE GT 3dr	£6,999	£10,157	£3,158
07 Reg Renault Clio 1.4 16V Dynamique	£7,290	£10,437	£3,147
08 Reg Renault Clio 1.5 dCi Dynamique 3dr	£8,990	£12,201	£3,211
08 Reg Renault Grand Modus 1.6 5dr Auto	£8,090	£13,158	£5,068
08 Reg Renault Megane 2.0 Renaultsport 225	£12,890	£19,195	£6,305
08 Reg Renault Laguna 2.0 dCi Dynamique 5dr	£12,490	£17,229	£4,739
08 Reg Renault Laguna 2.0 dCi 180 GT 5dr	£14,290	£21,438	£7,148
58 Reg Renault Koleos 2.0 dCi Priviledge 5dr	£20,390	£23,367	£2,977



58 Reg Renault

Clio 1.2 TCE Expression 3dr

New Price £11495

AutoPlanet Price

£7720

Saving against new £3775



58 Reg Renault

Megane 1.6 VVT Dynamique 5dr

New Price £15967

AutoPlanet Price

£9999

Saving against new £5968

Other Makes

	OUR PRICE	WAS NEW	YOU SAVE
07 Reg Citroen C3 1.6 HDi 16V Exclusive 5dr	£6,799	£13,032	£6,233
07 Reg Ford Fiesta 1.25 Style 3dr (Climate)	£5,999	£9,622	£3,623
57 Reg Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec 5dr (Climate)	£8,499	£15,045	£6,546
57 Reg Ford Mondeo 1.8 TDCi Edge 5dr	£9,750	£16,795	£7,045
57 Reg Vauxhall Astra 1.8i VVT Elite 5dr	£8,299	£17,015	£8,716
07 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 1.2i 16V Life 3dr	£6,599	£9,497	£2,898
07 Reg Vauxhall Vectra 1.8i VVT Exclusive 5dr	£6,990	£14,897	£7,907
57 Reg Vauxhall Zafira 1.9 CDTi Design	£11,999	£21,705	£9,706



07 Reg Vauxhall

Vectra 1.8i VVT Life 5dr

New Price £16300

AutoPlanet Price

£7299

Saving against new £9001



07 Reg Ford

C-Max 1.6 TDCi Zetec 110 5dr

New Price £17012

AutoPlanet Price

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Saving against new £8013

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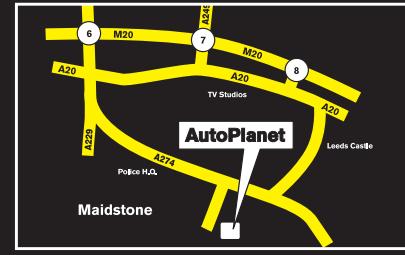
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146 TI, 5 door, p 1996, a car that will one day become a collectors item, this car is a 2 owner from new with full service history mainly main dealer, it has the 2.0i engine which produces 150bhp, along with a 5 speed manual gearbox, a test drive is welcome as well as any inspection, p. is available against this car, red, 9,400 miles, £1495, Courtenay Cars, Charing, Ashford, 01233 714848 (TRADE)

SPIDER, 3.2 V6, gj57fy, alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, climate control, side airbags, £20995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

AUDI

A4, 1.8T S Line Saloon 4d 1781cc (2004), alloy wheels, remote locking, electric windows & mirrors, alarm / immobiliser, black metallic, 88600 miles, £10995, E-SURFED Cars UK, Broadstairs, 0845 6447751 (TRADE)

BENTLEY

ARNAGE, red label auto, 2001, blemish silver with black leather, 50000 miles, £44950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

BMW

530i SE AUTO, 4 DOOR SPORTS, 2000 (x), 00 (x) bmw 530i se (face lift) automatic, 4 door saloon, stunning deep metallic blue coachwork with immaculate grey leather trim, service history, traction control, cruise control, remote central locking, alarm, air con, power seats, ew x 4, electric & folding mirrors, multiple air bags, original cd hi-fi + much more, true luxury at an affordable price, metallic blue, 000 miles, £4995, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

X3, 3.0d SE, 4x4, only 46279 miles, manufacturer service history, upgraded alloys, cd, dynamic stability control, fully colour coded, high level rear brake light, immobiliser, multi airbag system, multi function steering wheel, on board computer, pas, remote key central locking, mystic blue, £13997, Big Motoring World, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

CADILLAC

CTS, cts 3.6 sport luxury v6, 2005, light platinum with black leather, 22379 miles, £12950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

AVEO, 2008, abs air conditioning anti theft system cd player driver airbag driver seat height adjustment electric front windows passenger airbag power steering radio tiltable steering wheel wiper rear window, poly silver, 25 miles, £8145, FG Barnes, Maidstone, 01622 755531 (TRADE)

NEW CAPTIVA

2008, carbon flash black, 25 miles, £22995, FG Barnes, Maidstone, 01622 755531 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

300C, 5.7v8 auto estate, 2007, brilliant crystal met with dark and light slate gr, 10577 miles, £18950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

NEON, 2.0 LXI, 1995 (n), 95 (n) Chrysler neon 2.0 lx automatic, 5 door saloon, metallic green coachwork with contrasting grey velour trim, low mileage, service history, new mot, a strip at now £995 many more quality pre-owned cars for sale on: www.rivieracarsales.co.uk, metallic green, low mileage miles, £only £995, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

PT CRUISER, remote central locking, remote alarm, cloth upholstery, centre armrest, height adjustable seat, traction control, cd player, radio, air conditioning, electric mirrors, powered folding mirrors, abs, twin air bags, this vehicle is currently located at our barnethurst branch, for further details or to arrange a viewing please contact 01322 554 784, blue, 9600 miles, £4295, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

PUNTO, ELX JTD 1.9 3dr, nov 2001 g511to, two previous keepers, power steering, part service history, cd autochanger, twin airbags, abs brakes, engine immobiliser, sunroof, tinted glass, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, electric windows, electric mirrors, cloth upholstery, seat height adjuster, alloy wheels, gold metallic, 42, 000 miles, £3, 795, Hollis Motors, Dover, 01304 206710 (TRADE)

CITROEN

BERLINGO MULTISPACE, 2007, 1.6 hdi 16v desire 5dr dsl est, blue, 30171 miles, £6995, Wilmoths Folkestone, 01303 245 588 (TRADE)

C-CROSSER, 2.2 HDi Code 5dr, 2008, 2.2 hdi code 5dr estate special edition, beige, 8000 miles, £19995, Wilmoths Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

HONDA

911, 3.6 Carrera 2 Tiptronic S Coupe 2d 3596cc auto (2002), 07, 19" turbo alloys, sat nav, phone module, rear parktronic, climate, bose, cd, fsh, please view our website to see our full stock, basalt black with black leather, only 3, 000 miles, £65000, Vikings Canterbury, Canterbury, 01227 711112 (TRADE)

911 CARRERA 4, 2002, meridian silver with blue leather, 46000 miles, £29950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

HYUNDAI

ACCENT, 1.4 Atlantic 3dr Auto, 28/04/2007, cd player driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, blue, 13769 miles, £5700, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 854 4494 (TRADE)

JEEP

GRAND CHEROKEE, 1997, green, 180000 miles, £2995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

KIA

CARENIS, 2008, graphite grey met, 0 miles, £10995, WJ King Vauxhall, Rochester, 01634 723723 (TRADE)

CEED, 1.6 LS CRDI SW Diesel, abs alarm alloy wheels central locking drivers airbag, silver, 5600 miles, £15995, Masters Bromley Kia, Beckenham, 0208 662 6133 (TRADE)

SPORTAGE, 2.0 CRDI Titan Diesel, 2008, phantom black, 2000 miles, £15995, Masters Bromley Kia, Beckenham, 0208 662 6133 (TRADE)

LEXUS

IS, 200 SE, alarm, immobiliser, remote central locking, alcantara leather, half leather, electric seats, heated seats, adjustable steering column, auto lighting, colour coded body, front fog lamps, electric mirrors/windows, multi-disc cd player, electric sunroof, child locks, alloys red, 5200 miles, £5990, AR Cars, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

MINI

COOPER S, 1.6 3 DR, 2002, trim: cloth engine size: 1600 transmission: manual no. of doors: 3, blue, 4200 miles, £9395, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

PORSCHE

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alloys, sat nav, phone module, rear

parktronic, climate, bose, cd, fsh,

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full stock, basalt black with black

leather, only 3, 000 miles, £65000,

Vikings Canterbury, Canterbury,

01227 711112 (TRADE)

SAAB

9-3, Linear TID 1.9, two previous keepers, power steering, remote central locking, air conditioning, electric windows, full service history, radio/cd player, twin & side airbags, car alarm, on-board computer, tinted glass, seat height adjuster, alloy wheels, silver metallic, 32,000 miles, £9,495, Hollis Motors, Dover, 01304 206710 (TRADE)

9-5 CONVERTABLE

2000 (w), stunning diamond black coachwork with grey leather trim, full service history, electric pack, remote central locking, alarm, air con, electric windows original hi-fi, stunning condition, true luxury at an affordable price, only £5495 many more quality pre-owned cars for sale on: www.rivieracarsales.co.uk, diamond black, low mileage miles, £ cheap at £5995, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

9-5 CONVERTABLE

2000 (w), stunning diamond black

coachwork with grey leather

trim, full service history, elec

TVR

350i TASMIN (WEDGE), 1989 (f), 89 (f) tcr 350i convertible, stunning dark met blue coachwork with contrasting cream leather sports trim with blue piping, black mohair soft top, huge ground up nut and bolt restoration with all photo's to prove, big brake conversion, goodrich hoses etc, original service books, evm, em, quality cd hi-fi, alloy wheels, only 3 former keepers, sounds absolutely awesome!! metallic blue, 70,000 miles, £5995, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

VAUXHALL

AGILA, 11995 5 door Enjoy, 2001, driver's airbag power steering history check immobiliser, green tea, 76350 miles, £2595, Pomphrey's of Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

ASTRA SRI CDTI, 2008, power steering history check electric windows, star silver, 5630 miles, £13995, Pomphrey's of Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

CORSA, 1.4i 16V Design 5dr Auto, abs, air bags, steering wheel audio controls, misty grey met, 20924 miles, £5995, AutoPlanet Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

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Ref: CFE/08/0652

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For an informal discussion about the post phone Anne Lowry on 07934 508100.

Ref: CFE/08/0650

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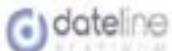
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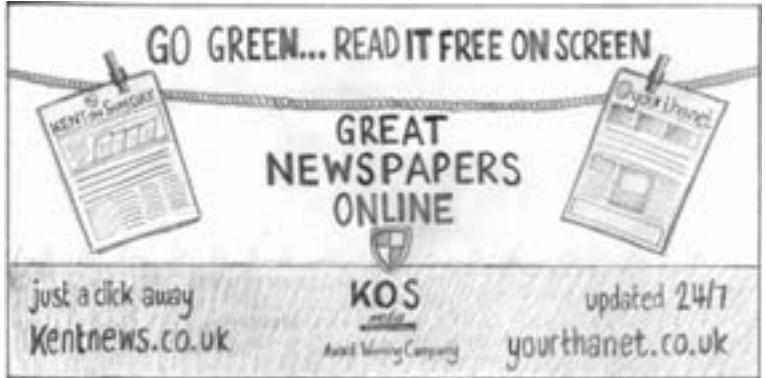
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Closing date: 9am on Friday, 23rd January 2009



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Closing Date: 30th January 2009

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If you would like to discuss this post further, please contact Sue Hamilton, Service Manager KCA Thanet on 01843 298355 ex. 217 or Christine Gordon Admin Lead on 01795 590795 ex. 2.

Closing date: Friday 23 January 2009.

Interview date: Thursday 5 February 2009 (TBC).

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from <http://www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies.html> or email recruitment@kca.org.uk

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OPINION: Shane Warne says Rob Key should be captain

Guernsey project is still on the table

THE people behind the project to bring a team from Guernsey into the Kent League remain confident of joining in time for next season.

The recently renamed Guernsey Athletics FC are looking to raise a six-figure sum in sponsorship before the end of March to get approval from the Football Association. They would then be able to apply to join the Premier Division for the 2009/10 season.

James Blower, a member of Guernsey Athletics' board of directors, has come up with an idea to make it possible for Kent teams to travel. He said: "The model we're looking at is to run it on a fully costed basis, so we would cover the expenses of the Kent teams once they got to Gatwick."

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Farewell to creator of UK racketball

TRIBUTES have poured in from all over the world following the death of Ian Wright, the creator of racketball in the UK.

The 74-year-old suffered a suspected heart attack on court at his beloved club in Bexley last weekend.

It brought a sudden end to a much-loved figure, well known across Kent, who devoted his life to squash, racketball and tennis. Wright occupied a staggering number of positions across a variety of sports, from club level all the way up to the European Squash Federation, where he was secretary for almost 20 years.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT
glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk

Spin king says Key should have got England job

CRICKET

LEGENDARY Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne feels the England and Wales Cricket Board should have installed Kent's Rob Key as England skipper, rather than Andrew Strauss.

The Kent captain was once again linked with the hottest job in world cricket following a sensational week in which Kevin Pietersen jumped before he was pushed and coach Peter Moores was sacked.

Warne, never short of a view or two, wrote in his Times column that he felt the appointment of Strauss was the safe bet and he

instead thought Key should have got the job.

He said: "My choice – if KP really had to go – would have been Rob Key of Kent. I think Key is unlucky not to have played more for England and I would have put him in charge for all three formats.

"He has flair and imagination, a good temperament and is well liked within the game."

The 29-year-old Kent skipper, who was a 25/1 shot for the Test job, is adept at all

forms of the game – leading Kent to the finals of both the Friends Provident Trophy and the Twenty20 last season.

He was also believed to be in the running for the role as one-day and Twenty20 skipper before the ECB plumped again for Strauss and although Key said he would have jumped at the chance to captain his country, he was never awaiting a call.

He said: "I would definitely have taken it of course, I would never turn something like that down. I didn't think I would get it and I wouldn't have put any money on me."



ENGLAND CALLING?: Simon Willis (right) could step into Graham Ford's shoes (left) at Kent if the South African takes up the position of England's head coach

Is Willis the man to step into Ford's shoes at Kent?

CRICKET

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

SIMON Willis could be the man to step in as Kent's director of cricket if Graham Ford is tempted to answer England's call as head coach.

Kent have said they would not stand in the way of Ford coaching the national side if England see him as the successor to the sacked Peter Moores.

Skipper Rob Key, who was again linked with the England captaincy before it was handed to Andrew Strauss, has pushed the claims for the South African to take over as England's head coach.

Key also said Willis should be aiming for the premier coaching role at Kent if Ford was to go.

He said: "Graham Ford is the best coach in world cricket, his record speaks for itself. He has got to be at the top of the pile."

"It's his reputation. He is there to help you and there is not a single part of him that does

any of it for his own ego.

"I don't know what would happen if Fordy was to go, it would certainly be a massive blow.

"As players we are trying to get in the England team and it's the same for coaches, we all want to be moving up the ladder and it's the same for them. It's no different for Simon Willis. Obviously things are pretty tight at Kent at the moment and that will dictate a lot of what goes on at the club for the next two years."

Lure

Ford, who joined Kent in 2005 having previously coached Natal and later South Africa, has already turned down India and New Zealand to stay at Canterbury but the lure of coaching England – especially in a year that includes the

Ashes and the Twenty20 World Cup – could be too difficult to turn down.

Willis has worked under Ford as first-team coach for the four seasons he has been at Kent and can understand why he has been courted by international sides.

"It has got to be his record," he said. "Anyone that has ever worked with him knows that he is a top class individual. He is not a tea cup thrower but manages to get his message across so that players know where they stand."

When asked whether he would want the director of cricket role at St Lawrence if Ford were to be lured away, Willis, who did the job in 2004, responded cautiously.

"To be fair I was thrown in at the deep end in my first year and that was quite interesting but I think we will have to wait and see what develops," he said. "Fordy has to be offered the opportunity and then it's a case of whether he takes it or not. There's a lot of water to flow under the bridge yet."

Barham ready to swing into action for Abu Dhabi

GOLF

■ BY TOM HOWARD

BECOMING a father during the winter may have changed Benn Barham's priorities but the golfer is determined to qualify for the lucrative \$10m Dubai World Championship later this year.

The Ashford golfer will begin his European Tour season tomorrow by competing in the Abu Dhabi Golf Championship. Last season was disappointing for Barham after finishing 110th on the Order of Merit – a full 21 positions down on his 2007 season.

Despite his worst Tour season finish for four years, the 33-year-old will take heart from recording his best ever Tour event finish of third place at the Russian Open in July last year.

With the European Tour introducing the money-spinning Dubai World Championship featuring the top 60 players on the Tour for 2009, Barham is gearing up for a push to qualify for the tournament in November.

He said: "I suppose my priorities have changed since becoming a father, but for me this season is all about the race to Dubai. I obviously want to win a tournament, but to finish in the top 60 and to take part in the Dubai event is definitely a target. I don't real-



DETERMINED: Benn Barham begins his quest to qualify for the Dubai World Championship in Abu Dhabi this week

ly see it as a crunch year for myself as I feel I have ten to 15 years left in me on the European Tour.

"Abu Dhabi is a great place to start, it's a fantastic venue. There is no doubt it will be a tough event and a strong field to go up against."

Even though the arrival of his daughter has taken up the majority of his winter, Barham has been practising hard and believes the

break from competition will give him renewed drive for 2009.

He said: "The preparations have been good, but it will be tough to start playing competitive golf again after having two months off. It has been lovely to have a break after playing a lot of golf and to welcome my daughter into the world. It has been an exciting two months off and it will be hard to leave my family for three weeks when the Tour begins again."

LEAGUE TABLE

(Not including midweek games)

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Kingstonian	21	13	5	3	+26	44
2 Metropolitan Police	23	11	9	3	+15	42
3 Cray Wanderers	24	12	5	7	+15	41
4 Sittingbourne	22	12	4	6	+6	40
5 Fleet Town	22	10	9	3	+18	39
6 Ashford Town	24	10	9	5	+17	39
7 Dulwich Hamlet (3)	24	11	7	6	+13	37
8 Worthing	20	10	7	3	+11	37
9 Walton & Hersham	23	10a	7	6	+6	37
10 Godalming Town	23	10	6	7	+4	36
11 Merstham	22	9	7	6	+2	34
12 Eastbourne Town	24	9	5	10	+2	32
13 Folkestone Invicta	23	8	8	7	+1	32
14 Croydon Athletic	23	7	6	10	-4	27
15 Whyteleafe	23	7	4	12	-8	25
16 Leatherhead	21	7	4	10	-14	25
17 Burgess Hill Town	22	6	6	10	-4	24
18 Corinthian-Casuals	24	4	8	12	-21	20
19 Chipstead	23	4	8	11	-24	20
20 Whitstable Town	23	6	2	15	-25	20
21 Walton Casuals	23	4	5	14	-19	17
22 Crowborough Athletic	23	3	3	17	-27	12

FIXTURES (Saturday): Ryman Division One South: Ashford

Town v Burgess Hill Town

FENCING



CALL UP: Gemma Phipps will represent Great Britain for the first time this Sunday in the U15s team

Representing Great Britain is très bon for young fencing star

YOUNG fencing star Gemma Phipps has been called up to represent Great Britain under-15s for an international match against France on Sunday.

The 12-year-old fencer from Ashford, ranked eighth in the country for her age, only began the sport two years ago and has already been recognised nationally. Phipps, who trained at MX Fencing Club in East Malling, near Maidstone, now faces her biggest challenge in her short career.

After just one year of competitive action she will join the Great Britain team on Sunday, which will consist of 30 members who hope to beat France in the competition held at Montereau near Auxerre.

The competition will be her biggest to date and she hopes to bring her 'A' game to the table to continue her rise up the rankings.

Her father Robert Phipps was just as shocked as his daughter by the announcement and revealed she almost missed out on the opportunity to represent her country.

He said: "We were quite shocked when we found out she had been selected for the Great Britain squad considering she has only been fencing for two years and only one year competitively."

"She almost missed out on it completely as she received an email about the competition, but didn't realise she had been selected. It was only when another parent phoned me and told me that she was selected that we knew."

"She was over the moon and extremely excited when she realised she made the team so we are all looking forward to it."

January will be a busy period for Phipps as she will be in action in the British Youth Championships on January 24, after qualifying for the competition by picking up a silver medal in the regional event last November.

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Picture: GOROKO/PCO

Lovell insists none of his players will be leaving

FOOTBALL

AFTER watching his side win in their last six outings, Ashford Town boss Steve Lovell knows his players will attract the attention of rival clubs, but insists his squad will be staying together.

Town have climbed the league to sixth after recording five consecutive wins in December. The run has warranted Lovell the honour of manager of the month, which he dedicated to his squad.

With teams looking to add to their squads for an end of season push, Lovell, however, has indicated his players are not for sale.

He said: "The run we have been on will attract clubs to my players, but I do not intend to let anybody go before the end of the season. All the players are on contract so if anyone wants to purchase them they will have to contact the club and go through the right channels. I'm sure clubs will be looking, but I have not heard of any approaches yet."

Lovell, who was in the market for a striker two months ago, has rubbished rumours linking him with Folkestone striker Jimmy Dryden, who handed in a transfer request last week.

He added: "I will not be putting in an approach at the moment. I am happy with my squad and we have four forwards already at the club so it would be hard to replace someone."

Town hope to be back in action this Saturday when they host Burgess Hill Town. With no injury worries, Lovell should have a fully fit squad of 18 players to choose from.

NOT FOR SALE: Ashford boss Steve Lovell intends to keep hold of his squad for the remainder of the season

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